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THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

ANOTHER great political campaign has been inaugurated, to eventuate, as we sincerely believe, in one of the greatest—if not *the* greatest—acts of national justice and social conciliation ever accomplished. On Monday evening Mr. Gladstone introduced to the House of Commons his measure for the disestablishment and disendowment of the Irish Church, and once more vindicated his right to a foremost place in the ranks of statesmen and orators of all countries and all times, as well as to the confidence of the people of the British empire. His speech was a model of expository discourse, and the scheme he developed is at once complete and comprehensive in itself, and a full redemption of the pledges given by the Government to the country. We say this without committing ourselves to approval of every point of detail; and we certainly think that, if the Irish clergy and their friends be wise, they will accept the terms offered to them, and set themselves vigorously to work to fulfil the mission devolving upon them in the new position in which they will in a short time be placed; for, assuredly, more favourable—nay, so favourable—terms are not likely to be offered again. And it is impossible, while looking at the measure proposed and at the speech by which it was introduced, not to feel what a mighty contrast there is between the men who compose the present Cabinet and those who preceded them in office. Both had a paramount political reform to accomplish; but in how markedly different a fashion did they approach their respective tasks! The Conservatives had no earnestness of principle, no fixed ideas, no definite scheme, when they announced their intention of dealing with the great question of Parliamentary Reform. The height of their ambition was to “dish the Whigs,” to gain an ephemeral party advantage, and not to prove themselves patriots and statesmen. Hence the hesitancy and vacillation of their leaders; hence the abortive “resolutions;” hence the still more abortive “ten minutes’ bill;” hence the production of a crude scheme, the only distinctive characteristic of which—the personal rate-paying test—has been found to be oppressive

and almost unworkable in operation; hence their readiness to accept suggestions from every quarter and to yield on every point; and hence the barren triumph of passing a measure which their opponents had to fashion for them. Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues, on the contrary, approach the question of the Irish Church with deep convictions and in an

The details of the Government scheme are sufficiently indicated in our Parliamentary report and in the epitome of the bill printed on another page; so we need not recapitulate them here. It will be sufficient that we make a few comments on some of their leading features. And the first remark that occurs to us is this, that the completeness and yet

moderation of the plan proposed must disarm the fears of some and disappoint the hopes of others. It was apprehended in some quarters, from certain indications to which we called attention a few weeks ago, that the terms accorded to the Irish Church would be too favourable to be just—that the share left to her of the funds she now engrosses would be too large to be satisfactory, to other sects; and that the seeds of new controversies would be sown in the very act of settling the great conflict that has so long been the bane of Ireland. On the other hand, hopes were cherished by other parties that the measure would be less sweeping than was threatened; that, besides the life interests of the benefited clergy and dignitaries of the Church, the Irish Prelates might be allowed to retain their seats in the House of Lords; that the churches, parsonages, and glebelands would be handed back, free of charge, to the new body that should represent the Anglican Episcopal Church of Ireland; that these sources of income, in addition to the private benefactions the Church enjoyed, would be a “goodly salvage out of the wreck,” as one reverend gentleman phrased it; that, in short, disestablishment and disendowment would, after all, be more nominal than real. It is not to be so, however. Mr.

Gladstone, as he tells us, has seen reason to modify his views on some points, especially as regards parsonages and glebelands, and to feel that “thorough” and “speedy” were the wisest mottoes he could adopt for his guidance in the work he has in hand. Consequently, while the Irish Establishment is to be dealt with most generously—more generously, perhaps, than it had any right to expect—disestablishment is to be complete and speedy, and disendowment really complete also in the long run, though the process will necessarily be more protracted and less thorough. Episcopal



"THE MUSIC LESSON."—(FROM A PICTURE BY GUSTAVE JONGH)

earnest, honest, enlightened, and withal kindly spirit; they have produced a carefully-elaborated and comprehensive scheme, competent to meet and provide for every phase of a complicated question; and their chief has placed it before Parliament and the country in an oration which even his great adversary—no mean judge of rhetorical art—was forced to speak of in terms of unqualified eulogy. Looking on this picture and on that, need there be any hesitation in deciding as to which set of men are most worthy to conduct the affairs of a great nation?



Protestantism in Ireland will be started on its new career freed of all shackles and with a patrimony such as no Church in like circumstances ever possessed before. She will still enjoy a capital of upwards of £8,000,000 sterling—more than half her present property; she will be free to work out her destinies unhampered by State control or restraint, to frame her own constitution (provided it be "representative"—that is, that the clergy do not monopolise all power), to make her own laws, to choose her own rulers, and to manage her own affairs, subject only to the condition, common to all other bodies, of submission to the laws of the land and amenability to the judicatures of the country. On such conditions as these the Irish Episcopal Church may enter on a more useful, more successful, and more glorious career than she has ever yet known, if her pastors and people be true to their principles, to themselves, and to the Master they profess to serve. If she do not possess these elements of vitality, she does not deserve to exist, and will most certainly disappear from the face of the earth. But if that result accrues, it will be from her own fault solely, and will prove that she has neither truth nor faith within her.

As to the disposal of the surplus funds after all reasonable claims have been satisfied, which, it is calculated, will amount to a capital sum of about £7,400,000, the proposals of Ministers, though novel and unexpected, seem wise, for they will leave no source of future controversy open. The surplus funds of the Church will henceforth be devoted to deeds of mercy, as they were originally meant to be, but as they have not heretofore been. Church property has ever been a source of heart-burning, a cause of jealousy, a bone of contention, and a field of abuse. It will be so no longer, for, devoted to the purposes to which Mr. Gladstone designs to appropriate it, by its aid "unavoidable calamity" will be softened, human suffering will be relieved, human woe mitigated, the burdens of the poor lightened, and Irishmen of every grade—but especially the helpless and the needy—made happier and more contented. Had sectarian jealousies and sacerdotal bigotry and pretension permitted, we should have been glad to see a portion of the funds that accrue from disendowment devoted to educational purposes; but, as matters stand at present, that is impossible, without opening a new and endless source of contention. Better, therefore, to follow the course Ministers propose, and appropriate the disposable funds to purposes to which no one can object, and about which no fighting can occur.

Again, the scheme for finally extinguishing the tithe rent-charge in forty-five years, or sooner, will have this happy effect, that at the end of that period the last vestige of party supremacy will have disappeared, and even the memory of its pernicious existence be obliterated. This, it is true, is mainly a landlords' matter; but it was a symbol of an evil thing—a thing which even a few years ago constituted a sore grievance; and it is wise to extinguish even the semblance of wrong, and thereby in time blot out its very remembrance. In forty-five years, at furthest, this will have been accomplished; and no one will know, except as matters of painful historical fact, that a State Church and sectarian supremacy, and consequent contention, ever had being in Ireland. We wish other parts of the realm had an equally pleasant prospect before them.

There is one point in the Ministerial scheme which seems to us questionable, and that is the appropriation of a portion of the surplus funds to the maintenance of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, and eleven other similar fabrics. We presume these are still to be devoted to Protestant Episcopal uses; and if so, surely the Protestant Episcopalians might be expected to keep them in repair; but if they will not do so, then these fabrics should be thrown into the common fund, and disposed of to whomsoever will undertake their maintenance. This, however, is a minor matter; and, on the whole, we think the Government measure at once liberal, comprehensive, and fair. Perhaps the best proof that it is so is afforded by the fact that it has been virulently denounced by the Tory press—not merely as regards its principle, but as to its most minute details. That was to be expected, however; for when men are averse to performing an act of justice at all, they are not likely to be pleased with the manner of doing it. But Ministers can afford to disregard, as they will surely ultimately defeat, this hostility; and, as we have often said before, with the abolition of the State Church, we hope for the inauguration of a new era of peace, goodwill, and prosperity to Ireland.

"THE MUSIC LESSON."

"KEEP your wrists up; and pray mind the dotted crotchets! Now, then, begin again! One and two and three and one, two, three. Thumb under! One and two and one! Third finger! A, B, C, and D, G sharp! Fourth finger, and one, and two, and A. Octave! Octave! One, two, three. Count! count! Now play the last eight bars over again, and pay keep time!"

We have all been subject to the strange jargon of the music lesson, either as pupils or listeners; and in the latter capacity the construction of modern houses, and the utter defiance of Acts of Parliament by speculative builders, even inveterate bachelors—who confess that they have no taste for music, and call all instrumental performance "twanging," or "jangling," or "scraping;" and all vocal efforts either "quavering" or "bawling,"—are compelled to be parties to the performance. It must require a very sweet temper and indomitable patience to be a successful teacher of music to a dull scholar; and, truth to tell, the dull scholar often has a rather bad time of it, and no wonder. There is something so exasperating to the musical ear in a succession of discords without meaning or intention, where all should be harmony; and even the most placable disposition may be roused to a certain kind of fury by a succession of false notes which are but clumsy attempts at forgery, and cannot be allowed to pass by any conscientious preceptor. It has always struck us as barbarous in parents to insist on being present in the room when the music mistress comes to give her daily lesson. The

poor lady should be permitted some opportunity of grinding her teeth, clenching her hands, or making the most hideous grimaces of which she is capable, behind the back of her pupil. Indeed, it is by no means certain that it would not be a good plan to place the piano opposite a looking-glass, so that the pupil might witness such exhibitions of horror and remonstrance. There is a looking-glass in front of the organist at orchestral performances, in order that he may be able to watch the movements of the conductor; and it would be well if pianos were constructed—but no; it would only be another inducement to the pupil to lose all sense of harmony by that intense self-consciousness which must be got rid of before any high effort can be made or any true proficiency attained. It is the teacher who loses her self for the time being, and thinks only of the learner and the work, who overcomes obstacles and forgets to make grimaces. Out of her sweet face there shines love for the work itself and love for the object for which it is undertaken; and mamma may not always understand why it is Miss Blank or Mrs. So-and-So always looks so happy, but thinks the musical profession must be a very pleasant one; wishes she had gone into it herself when young, but fancies there may be great temptations, she doesn't quite know why or to what; but then "it's such a curious way of getting a living." Just as if every way of getting a living wasn't curious, especially the work of a solicitor or a dealer in artificial hair. At any rate, mamma feels somehow the brighter and the better for being in the room, and is somehow dimly conscious that she, too, is taking instruction in the control of temper and the cultivation of patience during the progress of the music-lesson.

AN AMERICAN PAPER states that "in the case of Carswell, recently executed in Oneida county for murdering a girl, the hangman put his victim under the influence of anesthesia, and so projected him into eternity."

THE FOLLOWING ADVERTISEMENT is from a recent New York paper:—"If you want a really pure, unsophisticated 'family pill,' buy Dr. R.—'s liver-purifying, kidney-persuading, silent perambulator—twenty-seven in a box. This pill is as mild as a pet lamb, and as searching as a small-tooth comb. It don't go fooling about, but attends strictly to business, and is as certain as an alarm clock."

SNOWSTORMS have been very general throughout Scotland. In some districts the fall has been so heavy that ordinary transit has been stopped. The train between Peebles and Edinburgh was delayed for some time on Tuesday night by the snow. At three o'clock on Wednesday morning, at Edinburgh, the thermometer in the open air marked two degrees below freezing point, and the barometer was rising.

AMENDMENT TO THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.—Sir George Jenkinson will move, as an amendment on the second reading of the Irish Church Bill—"That, whilst this House is prepared to affirm the propriety of reforming by legislation any abuses or evils which may be shown to exist in that branch of the Established National Church situated in Ireland, yet, in their opinion, it would not be either just in principle or expedient in policy to disestablish any portion of the National Church as by law established in these realms, and as confirmed by the Act of Union, or to take from any portion of that National Church the property which is by endowment or otherwise justly her own."

VOTE OF MEN FOR THE NAVY.—The Parliamentary vote for the financial year 1869-70 will provide for 3352 commissioned officers, 664 subordinate officers, 1063 warrant officers, 28,401 petty officers and seamen, 7000 boys on service or under instruction; 7250 officers, men, and boys in the coastguard service, afloat and on shore; 1270 officers, men, and boys for troops in the Indian service; and 14,000 officers and privates of Royal Marines: making a total of 63,000, without reckoning the 300 civilians in the coastguard service. The vote for wages, &c., is £2,762,353. The vote of men and boys last Session was for 66,770, with 350 civilians for coastguard service. The saving effected on the Navy Estimates amounts to about £1,000,000 as compared with last year.

STRIKE OF SOUTH YORKSHIRE MINERS.—On Wednesday about 350 of the miners employed at the Denaby Main Colliery, near Mexborough, which is the deepest pit in Yorkshire, terminated their contract with that company and brought out their tools, in consequence of the masters having given them twenty-eight days' notice to leave their employment and their houses unless they ceased to be connected with the South Yorkshire Miners' Union. The executive of the union, aided by Mr. Mandella, M.P. for Sheffield, and other influential gentlemen, have used every effort to prevail upon the company to withdraw the notices, but without avail. A large meeting of the men was held at Mexborough on Tuesday evening, when they resolved to maintain their ground and stick to the union. On Wednesday as the men employed on each shift finished their work they were measured off, and brought out their tools. It is stated that a number of men have been engaged in Staffordshire for the Denaby pit.

MEETING IN THE NORTHERN IRON TRADE.—On Monday an important conference took place at Darlington between the iron manufacturers of the north of England and the representatives deputed by their workmen. The subject of the meeting was to discuss the desirability of establishing courts of arbitration in the northern iron trade, to prevent the periodical disputes and strikes which have been so disastrous to both masters and men. A claim for an advance of wages, consequent on an improvement in the iron trade, has lately been made by the men, and the men in one or two instances, we believe, suggested courts of arbitration. The chief manufacturers, at a meeting at Newcastle a week since, fell in with the idea—in fact, made a proposition for the present meeting. There was a pretty full meeting, most of the works in the north of England being represented. The meeting throughout was harmonious. An increase of wages was at present refused. A joint committee of masters and men was appointed to draw up rules for establishing courts of arbitration and conciliation for the north of England iron trade, and to report to a future meeting.

SOME MONTHS SINCE THE REV. G. R. ADAM, the Incumbent of St. Mary's, Kilburn, where Ritualist observances were developed to their full extent, died, and the patron (the Hon. A. Upton) appointed the Rev. A. Kennion, a pronounced Evangelical. The old congregation at once left the church and formed themselves into a "St. Augustine's Mission." They also took steps for erecting a church in the adjacent district of Holy Trinity, the Incumbent of which, the Rev. G. Despard, is an Evangelical, and of course opposed to the new comers establishing themselves in his parish. Under these circumstances the Evangelicals propose to erect a new church, dedicated to St. John the Evangelist, in Trinity district; and they announce that the Incumbent of Trinity has been allowed until Sept. 1 next to provide a site and the requisite funds to commence the erection of the new church, and in the event of his success the promoters of the St. Augustine's Mission will not be allowed to proceed with their plans. A site has been promised and contributions to the amount of £1500, but £3000 more will be required by Sept. 1. It is proposed to vest the patronage of the new church (in the event of its erection) in the hands of trustees, and the Rev. R. D. Cocking, M.A., has been named as the first Incumbent.

MR. COBBEN ON THE PEACE SOCIETY.—"The reduction of our warlike expenditure will never be inaugurated by an aristocratic executive until impelled to it by public opinion. Nay, as in the case of the repeal of the corn laws—no Minister can do it, except when armed by a pressure from without. I look to the agitation of the Peace Party to accomplish this end. It must work in the manner of the League, and preach common sense, justice, and truth, and the streets must be market-places. The advocates of peace have found in the Peace Congress movement a common platform, to use an Americanism, on which all men who desire to avert war, and all who wish to abate the evil of our hideous modern armaments, may co-operate without compromising the most practical and 'moderate' politician, or wounding the conscience of my friend Mr. Sturge and his friends of the Peace Society—upon whose undying religious zeal, more than all besides, I rely for the eventual success of the Peace agitation. The great advance of this party within the last few years, as indicated most clearly by the attacks made upon them, which, like the spray dashed from the bows of a vessel, mark their triumphant progress, ought to cheer them to still greater efforts."

SERIOUS ACCIDENT ON THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.—On Sunday a serious collision took place on the Great Northern Railway, close to the Bedford station. A special down goods-train, consisting principally of empties, arrived at the station about half-past five o'clock in the morning. A number of trucks had to be shunted into the up siding, and to accomplish this it was necessary to cross the up line. In the same siding into which these trucks, to the number of twenty-three, were being shunted, were a large number of other trucks, which had to be moved higher up, to make room for the fresh arrivals. When right across the main line, and while attempting to shunt the empties, the driver of the goods train found himself unable to move the trucks in the siding in addition to his own, and just at this moment the up express passenger-train from Edinburgh came in sight, and with terrific force dashed right through the middle of the goods-train, throwing the whole of the carriages, with the exception of the last brake-van, off the rails, tearing up the permanent way for sixty yards, and smashing a considerable number of trucks, several being completely destroyed. Most marvellous to state, no one appeared to be seriously hurt, although, of course, the shock must have been very great; and after about an hour's delay the passengers were again able to proceed on their journey. The engine of the passenger-train was most seriously disabled, and the whole of the carriages bore evidence of the disaster. It appears that there are several signals before reaching the station. The first signal and the one at the station were all right; the central signal, used at the siding when any shunting is going on, was at danger; but it is stated to have been very indistinct, and the driver of the express train says that he could not see it.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

M. Emile Ollivier's work upon the Imperial reforms of Jan. 19, which has been awaited with so much interest in Paris, has now appeared. The book hitherto does not seem to have met with much favour from the Paris press. The *Siècle* calls the author a political Narcissus admiring himself in the fountain of his life, and describes his work as a monument of personal infatuation. The French journal *Le Peuple*, which recently rendered itself so conspicuous by its attacks upon Belgium for the Railway Bill just passed by that country, published the other day a letter from Brussels stating that Lord Howard, the Minister of Great Britain there, had had several interviews with M. Frère-Orban on the subject, and had spoken with sufficient plainness to show that England looked with anything but favour upon the policy followed by the Belgian Cabinet. The *Independence Belge* reproduces this statement, and adds by way of comment that Lord Howard has been dead for the last six months.

A very important action, brought by a private soldier, named Alfred Sausshar, against the Minister of War, has been tried by the Paris Court of First Instance. The plaintiff, whose family is of Dutch origin, was born in France, and so was his father; but his father was never naturalised, and the plaintiff himself, within a year after he attained the age of twenty-one, registered a declaration, pursuant to the law of Feb. 7, 1851, that he did not claim the privilege of which the locality of his birth entitled him to of becoming a Frenchman, but desired to remain a Dutchman. Nevertheless he was drawn for the army, and, in spite of all his protests, was forced to serve, and at this moment he is actually on duty in a garrison near Paris. The law is beyond dispute on his side. Complaints have frequently been made in the Corps Législatif that the law is too liberal to residents of foreign origin, because there are numerous instances in the eastern departments of families who have been settled in France for many generations and yet escape military service. However, attempts to alter the law in this respect have uniformly failed, and the representatives of the Government have always taken pride in declaring that no man of foreign extraction could be made a French citizen unless he desired it. The Court, agreeing with the Judge-Advocate, held that the Minister of War was clearly in the wrong, and Sausshar is to be discharged.

A duel has taken place in Belgium between Count de Malartic and a Hanoverian Colonel. The dispute arose out of a discussion in a Paris salon respecting Count Bismarck, to whom Count de Malartic is related. Both combatants received injuries. The Hanoverian was struck in the ear and stunned for a short time by the blow; his adversary was wounded in the side, and, but for some notes and papers in his coat pocket, would probably have been killed. He is now, however, out of danger, and has been taken back to Paris.

SPAIN.

A meeting of the majority of the Cortes, on Monday night, appointed a Commission of fifteen members to prepare a draught of the Constitution, defining first the rights and liberties of citizens, the new form of government, and the person of the Monarch. The principal members of the Commission are Olozaga, Rios Rosas, Armijo, Ulloa, Montero, &c.

There has been a Socialist outbreak at Barcelona, which is said to have been put down by the Volunteers of Liberty, who took thirty-three prisoners. In the neighbourhood of Barcelona there have been Carlist disturbances, the movers in which have also (we are told) been defeated by the volunteers. In consequence of these events the intended amnesty for political offences has been postponed. In Wednesday's sitting of the Constituent Cortes a member of the Republican party asked the Government for information relative to the arrests lately made at Barcelona. He stated that the Republicans had in no way participated in the recent events in that city, which, he said, were no doubt instigated by Carlists. The Minister of the Interior replied that the Republicans, on the contrary, were the instigators, and that Deputy Pierrard had even accepted the honorary presidency of a club, the members of which had been arrested at Barcelona.

AUSTRIA.

The Budget Committee of the Lower House has approved the financial law for 1869, the details of which are now definitively settled. The expenditure is estimated at 299,026,671 fl., and the revenue at 296,284,176 fl. There is, therefore, a deficit of 2,742,495 fl., which is to be covered by the operation on the floating debt.

EGYPT.

In his speech at the opening of the Egyptian Chambers the Viceroy admitted that the canal works had been a great burden to the population, but he hoped that all classes would be compensated by the benefits that would follow the completion of the undertaking. He thought the excess of debt was justified by the fact that important public works had been accomplished, civil and military schools opened, and the army and the navy put on a footing that secured the safety of the country.

THE UNITED STATES.

The House of Representatives has passed a resolution of sympathy with the efforts of the Spanish people to establish liberty, and of the Cubans to obtain their independence. The President of the United States is authorised by this resolution to recognise the independence of Cuba directly a *de facto* Government is established.

The Senate has refused to repeal the Tenth of Office Bill, which was recently repealed by the House of Representatives.

The Constitutional amendment enacting negro suffrage has passed Congress, and is now to be sent to the State Legislatures for ratification. It has already been ratified by Louisiana, Kansas, Missouri, Nevada, and West Virginia.

CHINA.

The inhabitants of the villages near Swatow who attacked the crew of the British gun-boat *Grasshopper* have been satisfactorily punished. The details of the conflict show that eighty-eight natives were killed or wounded. Three English officers were wounded, but not seriously. The villages have been destroyed, and the force has returned.

M. JULIEN, a merchant of Paris, has petitioned the French Senate to impose a special tax upon bachelors of thirty years and upwards.

COLONEL H. J. SHAW, the present governor of the Herbert Hospital at Woolwich, retires from that post on March 31, it having been decided that the appointment is one for three years only. It is looked upon as somewhat doubtful whether the vacancy will be filled. Colonel Shaw (formerly in the 45th Regiment) was in charge of the invalid depot at Chatham until its disestablishment.

A MAN AND HIS WIFE, who have hitherto occupied respectable positions, the former having been a clerk in a stationer's establishment, while the latter possessed several hundred pounds' worth of landed property, were indicted on Monday at the Surrey Sessions for having neglected the children of the husband by his first wife. Each of the prisoners was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

THE BISHOPS-STORTFORD, DUNMOW, AND BRAINREE RAILWAY—as to which there was so much discussion a few months since between Lord Redesdale, Mr. Brassey, Mr. Bidder, and others—has at last been opened for traffic. It has cost the Great Eastern rather more than £180,000. Its length is eighteen miles, so that the cost would not be excessive if the district were good for anything from a traffic point of view. But only two trains are to be run each way daily. As Lord Salisbury pointed out last week, the present Great Eastern board are not responsible for the making of the line.

THE BOARD OF TRADE has given instructions for the preparation of a telescope for presentation to Captain Cushing, of the ship *Victory*, of New York, in acknowledgment of the kindness shown by him to the survivors (twelve) of the crew of the barque *Lancaster*, of Montreal, which vessel, when on a voyage in November last from Quebec to Liverpool, became, owing to stress of weather, an unmanageable wreck. The rescued men were taken from the wreck by the *Warrior*, of Jersey, on Nov. 13; but, three days later, they were transferred to the *Victory*, and by that vessel conveyed to Liverpool, where they were landed on the 28th of the same month.

THE PRINCE CONSORT MEMORIAL IN HYDE PARK.

SOME time back it was thought probable that this memorial would be finished and solemnly inaugurated by her Majesty on May 1 next; but this is now found to be impossible. So far as the structural portions of the monument are concerned, they may be said to be complete; but that which remains to perfect the whole, and the most important part of all—the proposed decorations and sculpture—have not kept pace with the building, owing to their magnitude and the wonderful care with which they have been executed. The memorial was commenced in 1864, but much time and labour were necessarily consumed by the contractors in finding a good foundation to rear a structure of such importance and value. Finding the foundation was a task not without much difficulty, as just below the gravel a bed of loose sand and mould had to be excavated to a depth of 18 ft., and this has been filled in with solid concrete, over which has been raised a series of cellular arches in the form of a square, rising to the apex platform in the centre, and supporting the spacious steps and landings which form the noble basement. Towards Kensington-road, on the south side, there are three of these flights; whilst on the east, north, and west sides there are but two, and between each flight, which rises some 8 ft., is an ample landing; and from the corner of every landing, projecting diagonally outwards, is a massive pedestal of granite. These will each be surmounted by a group of sculpture, and above all, on the highest platform, commences the actual memorial, or rather its podium, which is at the present time being carved. This podium—and indeed it is no more nor less than a carved balcony—rests upon a base of highly-polished granite, and above it rises a frieze of Sicilian marble to a height of six feet. This will be carved with figures in bas-relief, numbering some 800; those on the south side will represent Poetry and Painting, and the north and west Sculpture and Architecture. At every angle of the podium there is to be a cluster of statuary, which, when finished, will be fine specimens of modern art. These groups are at the present time in the studios of Messrs. Foley, Bell, Macdowell, and Theed; and, although far advanced towards completion, it would seem quite impossible that they can be finished in two or three months. They will represent the four quarters of the globe. The one by Mr. Foley represents Asia, Europe is by Mr. Macdowell, Africa by Mr. Theed, and America by Mr. Bell. The fine-work above the statues is supported at each corner by a cluster of columns, eight in number, and all composed of monoliths of red and grey granite, most exquisitely polished and beautifully symmetrical. These columns rest upon a block of plain Irish granite, whose surface has been dressed to a high lustre, and from the tops of these columns spring the main arches of the canopy, which will spread over the seated figure of the Prince Consort. The spire, which forms a guide to its site from almost any part of the park and rises high above the surrounding trees, is, perhaps, the principal feature of the whole. From its cross to the base is exactly 120 ft.; and the metal used in its construction weighs over 200 tons. This enormous weight is supported by four massive crossed wrought-iron girders. Only an inadequate idea can be conveyed of the magnificence with which this spire has been decorated. There is not an inch of space which is not covered with scroll-work, a pinnacle, or figures. Near the summit are four pedestals for four bronze-gilt figures emblematic of the virtues, and above these will be carved angels extending their wings over the whole. The chief object of this work, the Prince Consort's figure, is entrusted to Mr. Foley. It is to be of bronze-gilt, and will represent the Prince sitting on a throne of state on a noble pedestal of granite and Sicilian marble; whilst above, the roof of the canopy bears the Royal arms and those of the Prince on a ground of blue and gold. At the four corners of the pedestal upon which the throne stands there will be statues to represent Agriculture, Manufactures, Engineering, and Commerce. The arches and their spandrels are filled in with rich mosaics on a gold ground, and are protected from the injurious effects of the climate by a thin film of glass. The design of the whole work is due to Mr. Gilbert Scott. Although the memorial is so far advanced as we have described, it is not possible that it can be finished before the winter. The cost of this great national record has not been restricted to any particular amount; the Government voted a sum of £180,000, but this is quite inadequate to cover the entire expense; and the deficit, as was the case with the cost of the mausoleum at Frogmore, will be met from out of the private purse of the Queen.

AT CLEMENT'S INN grace after dinner is not said, but acted. Four loaves, closely adhering together, typical of the four Gospels, are held up by the occupant of the chair, who raises them three times, in allusion to the Blessed Trinity, and then hands them to the butler, who hurries them out of the hall with an alacrity which is emblematic of the freedom with which the Bread of Life is given to the world. This acted grace, it is almost needless to add, is of great antiquity, and clearly had a religious origin.

THE CONVENT CASE.—After having lasted for twenty-one days, the great convent case, "Saurin against Star and Kennedy," was brought to a close last week, when the jury returned the following verdict:—"The jury find for the defendants on the first count—namely, that for assault. They also find for the defendants on the second count—namely, that for imprisonment. They find for the plaintiff on the count for libel, and for the plaintiff also on the count for conspiracy. Damages, £500; including the costs, if returned."

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—On Thursday a meeting of this institution was held at its house, John-street, Adelphi, London.—Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. Richard Lewis, Esq., the secretary, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, £12 9s. was voted to pay the expenses of the institution's life-boat at Maryport, Cumberland, in going off during a heavy gale and saving seven men from the brig Robert Bruce, of Belfast, which was wrecked near Maryport, on the 7th ult. £14 10s. was likewise granted to pay the expenses of the society's life-boat at Thorpeness, Suffolk, in going off, on the 8th ult., and rescuing, in a strong gale and heavy sea, eight men from the barque Selma, of Falmouth, which took the ground near Misser Haven, and afterwards became a total wreck. The Cadwith life-boat of the institution had put off, on the 9th ult., during a heavy gale, and saved eight men from the ship Calcutta, of London. The Lizard life-boat also put off with the view of saving the lives of some of the crew of the same vessel. In acknowledgment of these noble services, the owners of the Calcutta sent a donation of £200 to the institution and to the crews of the two life-boats. A sum of £16 3s. 6d. was likewise voted to pay the expenses of the society's life-boat at Margate in going off and rescuing five men from the schooner Friends, of West Hartlepool, which was wrecked on the rocks to the east of Margate jetty during a heavy gale on the 12th ult. The life-boat's stem was broken away on the occasion, and the boat had to undergo a thorough repair. Rewards amounting to £29 8s. were voted to the crews of the life-boats of the institution stationed at Thurso, Caister, Wimblesham, and North Deal for their valuable services in saving the crews of the following vessels:—schooner William Thomson, of Dumfries, 4 men saved; schooner Blossom, of Thurso 3; schooner Elizabeth Miller, of Thurso, 4; schooner Matilda Calder, of Findhorn, 8; ship Hannah Peterson, of Leiden, 20; brig Pearl, of Shoreham, 8; ship Ingrid, of Amsterdam, 9. The Caister, Lowestoft, and Ramsgate life-boats had also recently performed the following services:—Bark Eliza Caroline, of London, rendered assistance; brig Beatrice, of Whitby, assisted to save vessel and crew, 7; barque Highland Chief, of London, 12. Rewards were also granted to the crews of the society's life-boats at Porthleven, Givran, Penance, Thorpeness, Rye, Great Yarmouth, Dredgheda, Holyhead, and Lark, for various services during the recent heavy gales. Various other rewards were also granted for saving life from shipwrecks on our coasts. The committee decided to station a life-boat at Alderney. Lord Stafford has unconditionally offered to defray the cost of the boat, his Lordship having previously presented to the institution the Weymouth life-boat. It was agreed that the Ancient Order of Foresters intended to present to the society another life-boat. The late Mr. Benjamin Mendes Da Costa had bequeathed to the institution a legacy of 19s. Payments amounting to £1000 were voted to be made on various life-boat establishments. During the late severe and high tides seven of the life-boat houses of the institution had been blown down, injured. The committee expressed their sincere regret at the destruction of Admiral R. Gordon and Captain C. H. Egerton, R.N., who had been for many years active members of the committee of management of the society. The annual meeting of the institution is to be held on Tuesday next, the 9th inst., at the London Tavern—his Grace the Duke of Northumberland, P.C., president of the society, in the chair. Reports were read from the inspector and the assistant inspector of life-boats to the institution on their recent visits to various life-boat stations. The proceedings then terminated.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY IN SOLAR PHYSICS.

ANOTHER step, and perhaps the most important of all, has been made in that branch of research which now engages so large a share of the attention of our astronomers and physicists—the examination of the chemistry of the sun. We had learned the nature of the solar prominences from the eclipse expeditions last year; then we had found that these prominences can be examined spectroscopically without the aid of an eclipse; now, the discovery has been made that they can be seen without an eclipse. The "double discovery," made by Messrs. Janssen and Lockyer, had given us what Sir John Herschel describes as "a mode of rendering the protuberances sensible, not visible." Its application to determine the shape of these objects was tedious and difficult, and it did not seem possible to apply it to determine the character of those rapid changes of figure which the prominences have been shown to undergo. Now, this part of the lesson taught us by these objects will be rendered available, since the method just discovered will enable the astronomer to watch a prominence at his leisure, and to notice all those whirling and waving motions which are suggested by a comparison of Major Tennant's photographs with the views obtained by observers in other places.

The history of this singular discovery affords a striking answer to those who are apt to sneer at the laborious inquiries which our physicists make into apparently insignificant subjects. Sir David Brewster, applying many days and weeks of his valuable time to the inquiry into the absorptive qualities of coloured glasses, might seem to many to have been employing his energies almost uselessly. But, putting aside the interesting results which flowed directly from his labours, the laws he discovered now find an application of the utmost interest and importance.

The eclipse expeditions had shown that the light we receive from the coloured prominences which surround the sun belongs to three special colours. Its spectrum showed a red line, an orange line, and a greenish blue line. It was because the light is thus divided between three definite spectral lines that it was possible to distinguish its spectrum from that given by the sun's proper light, which has been found to exceed that of the prominences from 600 to 1100 times. The peculiar mode of dispersion produced by the spectrum came into play, and spreading out the sun's light into a long streak, while it left the prominence-spectrum gathered into three lines, enabled us to recognise the fainter source of light as well as the more brilliant. But was it to be hoped that any method might be devised to enable us to see the prominences? It seems, at first sight, hopeless to attempt this, since any means we may use for reducing the solar light obliterate the prominences, and an experiment made by the Astronomer Royal showed that it is hopeless to attempt to blot out the sun by a circular screen of any sort, since the illumination of the atmosphere remains, and effectually conceals the prominences.

But it had been shown years ago by Sir David Brewster that transparent bodies do not absorb the colours proportionally. He examined the spectrum given by the light of a candle with a wedge of coloured glass:—"Through the thinnest edge the spectrum could be seen nearly as complete as before; but as he looked through greater and greater thicknesses, particular parts of the spectrum became fainter and fainter, and gradually disappeared, while others suffered but a slight diminution of their brightness." According to the nature of the glass, the part of the spectrum blotted out varied. Some glasses attacked the middle of the spectrum, others one extremity, others the other extremity, and some both extremities.

Now, we have seen that the light from the prominences belong to three definite parts of the spectrum. What if, by a proper choice of transparent glasses, we could obliterate all the rest of the spectrum but those three parts, or even all but one of those parts? Is it not clear that in that case the sun's light would be obliterated, while the light from the prominences would be visible. So that in such a case we should actually see the same phenomenon as the observers of the eclipse saw—that is, a ring of prominences and no sun. It is, perhaps, hopeless to expect quite so exact a sifting of the solar light as this; but it is not impossible to obtain an approach to it. If we obtain a transparent glass which blots out a great part of the spectrum without touching one of the prominence lines, we have done something. If we obtain another which blots out some other part and yet leaves our line untouched, that is another step. And so, by a proper choice of glasses, we may blot out so much of the sun's light, without affecting the light of the prominence, as to leave the latter visible.

The idea of doing this had occurred to Mr. Huggins before the results of the eclipse expeditions had reached England. He obtained a great variety of coloured glasses and other absorptive media. He examined them with a prism to see what part of the spectrum they absorbed, and then he combined them in different ways. But, of course, as he had no knowledge of the quality of the light which we actually receive from the prominences, all this was in a sense guesswork. "It would have been by accident only," he says, "if I had succeeded in obtaining a view of the flames."

But the observations of the eclipse of August last "having shown the position in the spectrum of the bright lines of the prominences," he renewed his observations with greater promise of success. After various trials and combinations of coloured media, he has, at length, succeeded in resolving the important problem of seeing the solar prominences without an eclipse. Nor let it be supposed that the credit due to this achievement is in any sense lessened because the work was founded upon the results previously obtained by the eclipse expeditions. The discoveries which have lately been made in solar physics have followed each other so rapidly that it is very necessary to discriminate justly between the rival claims of different observers. We must not confound the discovery of the gaseity of the prominences with the discovery made by Janssen and Lockyer, that the prominence-spectra can be seen without an eclipse. The whole and sole credit of the first discovery is due to the eclipse observers, the whole and sole credit of the second to the two astronomers who took part in it. In like manner as to this third discovery, it is one which must be considered *per se*, and referred wholly to the physicist who has made it. Of its importance there can be no doubt. We believe that when Mr. Huggins has announced the exact nature of the glasses made use of, a trifling expense will enable every amateur astronomer to see the prominences for himself.

It would be unfair to close this paper without mentioning that Lieutenant Herschel, in a letter to his father, Sir John Herschel, refers to the possibility of observing the prominences in the very manner successfully applied by Mr. Huggins. This circumstance, as Sir John Herschel remarks, "serves to show how immediately and readily a clearly-defined new fact of this sort suggests to an active and combining intellect the possibility of immediate practical application. If I mistake not," he adds, "the 'double discovery' made by Mr. Lockyer and Mr. Janssen turns upon the very same feature."—*Daily News*.

OFFICIAL GUZZLING.—For a long time the Metropolitan Board of Works has steadily refused to allow the cost of the vestrymen's visit to the Main Drainage Works at Abbey Mills, last summer, to be made public. The principal items of expense have, however, at length leaked out; they are as follow:—The cost of the cold collation, wine, &c., was £1416 16s. 11d.; steam-boats for conveying the visitors from London to North Woolwich, £270; Great Eastern Railway for special trains to Abbey Mills, £334 13s. 7d.; total, £2041 10s. 6d.

A NEW FEATURE IN LIFE ASSURANCE.—A few weeks ago we reprinted from the columns of a contemporary an article with the above heading. Since then we have received several letters asking for the name of the company which has introduced the feature referred to in their system of "business;" and we regret that we cannot supply the information desired. It was the principle proposed to be adopted that attracted our attention, and we never troubled ourselves about the name of the company, which did not appear in the article. Dr. Farrer, however, is the author of the new plan; and we dare say it will not be difficult to discover him, and, through him, to obtain the information desiderated by our correspondents.

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

THE Irish Church Bill has been printed, and was issued on Tuesday morning. It comprises sixty-three clauses. The title is "A bill to put an end to the Establishment of the Church of Ireland, and to make provision in respect of the temporalities thereof, and in respect of the Royal College of Maynooth;" and the preamble runs as follows:—

"Whereas it is expedient that the union created by Act of Parliament between the Churches of England and Ireland, as by law established, should be dissolved, and that the Church of Ireland, as so separated, should cease to be established by law, and that after satisfying, so far as possible, upon principles of equality as between the several religious denominations in Ireland, all just and equitable claims, the property of the said Church of Ireland, or the proceeds thereof, should be held and applied for the advantage of the Irish people, but not for the maintenance of any Church or clergy or other ministry, nor for the teaching of religion:

"And it is further expedient that the said property, or the proceeds thereof, should be appropriated mainly to the relief of unavoidable calamity and suffering, yet so as not to cancel or impair the obligations now attached to property under the Acts for the relief of the poor:

"And whereas her Majesty has been graciously pleased to signify that she has placed at the disposal of Parliament her interest in the temporalities of the several archbishoprics, bishoprics, benefices, cathedral preferments, and other ecclesiastical dignities and offices in Ireland, and in the custody of the same respectively:

"Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, &c.

The first clause gives the short title of the bill, and the next provides for the dissolution of legislative union between the Churches of England and Ireland after Jan. 1, 1871. Clauses 3 to 9 inclusive define the powers and duties of the temporary commission which will be appointed for ten years. Four clauses deal with the transfer of property and dissolution of ecclesiastical corporations as follows:—(10) All future appointments to any dignity or benefice connected with the Church prohibited except as afterwards prescribed. (11) Property of old commission to be vested in new commission; as also (12) the Church property after Jan. 1, 1871; (13) and on the same date there will be a dissolution of ecclesiastical corporations, and cessation of the right of archbishops and bishops to sit in the House of Lords. Clauses 16 to 18 provide for compensation to all beneficed incumbents, permanent curates, diocesan schoolmasters, clerks, and sextons, in the shape of annuities equivalent to their present incomes, and to organists, vergers, and others in the shape of gratuities not exceeding one year's salary, and to lay patrons (except the Crown, and any corporation or public officer), according to the value of the advowson or right of presentation. The powers of the Church after the passing of the Act are thus defined:—(19) repeal of laws prohibiting holding of synods, &c.; (20) existing law to subsist by contract; (21) abolition of ecclesiastical courts and ecclesiastical law; (22) incorporation of Church body as follows:—

"If at any time it be shown to the satisfaction of her Majesty that the bishops, clergy, and laity of the said Church in Ireland, or the persons who, for the time being, may succeed to the exercise and discharge of the episcopal functions of such bishops, and the clergy and laity in communion with such persons, have by arrangement amongst themselves appointed any persons or body to represent the said Church, and to hold property for any of the uses or purposes thereof, it shall be lawful for her Majesty by charter to incorporate such body, with power, notwithstanding the statutes of mortmain, to hold lands to such extent as is in this Act provided, but not further or otherwise."

Clauses 23 to 30 regulate the dealings between the Commissioners and the representative Church body as to redemption of annuities, building charges, churches, burial-grounds, parsonages, &c.; clauses 31 to 35 relate to the management of property by the Commissioners; clauses 36 to 40, to the Regium Donum and Maynooth College; clause 41, to appeals; and there remain clauses 42 to 63 as supplemental provisions.

EMIGRATION CLUBS.

ON Monday Mr. Bright received a deputation from the Land, Emigration, and Colonisation Society, at the office of the Board of Trade, Whitehall-gardens. The deputation comprised about sixty persons. Mr. M'Heath, having introduced the principal members of the deputation, said they represented a body of working men who had united themselves for the purpose of carrying out a system of mutual emigration and colonisation, and whose objects, he hoped, would meet with the sympathy and support of Mr. Bright and the Government. The committee had been in communication with the Governor of Nebraska, in the United States, from whom they had received a letter, dated Jan. 30, in which he stated that many thousands of acres of land in that State would be brought into the market in the ensuing spring by the Union Pacific Railway Company upon highly advantageous terms to the settler. Many thousands of acres would also be brought into the market by the State, at from 5 dols. to 7 dols. per acre, with the privilege of deferred payments. He concluded his letter by offering his hearty co-operation to the society in advice and assistance to any emigrants it might send to Nebraska. Mr. M'Heath read the letter, and handed to Mr. Bright the rules of the society. Mr. Bright, having looked over those documents, said the objects of the society appeared to be very good, and such as he should like to encourage; but they would require great caution and consideration in carrying them out, or they might be disappointed in the result, and discourage other attempts that might be made. He should like to know the precise object of the deputation. From what he had heard and seen, he thought the society should have applied to the Registrar of Friendly Societies. Mr. M'Heath said the object of the society could not be obtained by its being enrolled under the Friendly Societies Act. It was desired to form a joint-stock company, but without any division of profits among shareholders. For example, the society would purchase by the united subscriptions of its members certain plots of land in Nebraska, to which members of the society, with their families, would be sent. The rent paid for this land would not be divided as dividend among the shareholders or members, but lodged in the hands of trustees, and expended by them from time to time in erecting houses, in purchasing additional land, or in improving that already bought, &c. Mr. Bright remarked that was the principle upon which the gifts of Mr. Peabody are managed, the accumulation from the rents being expended in building additional houses. Mr. M'Heath said it was. He then read sec. 23, cap. 131, of the Companies Amended Act of 1867, which gave power to the Board of Trade to grant a certificate under the official seal to any joint-stock company which did not divide its profits as dividends, but devoted the whole of its funds to the furtherance of the objects of the company. He submitted that the society he represented came under that description. The certificate of the Board of Trade would give an authority to the company, and confer power upon it which it could not obtain from the Friendly Societies Act. A long conversation then followed between Mr. Bright, Mr. J. Murray, Mr. Radford, Mr. Charles Murray, and other members, as to the objects and practicability of the society. At its conclusion, Mr. Bright said if the deputation would leave with him the documents laid before him, they and the application made by the deputation should receive his careful consideration. If the board felt that the application had not been made in the proper quarter they would refer the deputation to those to whom it should be made, with such advice as they might deem desirable. He sympathised with the objects of the society, but without at



DEPARTURE FOR PRISON OF SADIK EFFENDI, THE REFORMER OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

present expressing an opinion as to their practicability. The deputation then retired, thanking the right hon. gentleman for the kind interest with which he had listened to the statements made.

A movement similar to that described by Mr. M'Heath is, we understand, on foot for colonising a district of 240,000 square miles called "Price's Grant," in Guayana, Venezuela. This territory was granted by the Government of Venezuela to Mr. Henry M. Price for the purpose of colonisation by emigrants from the Southern States of North America and Great Britain, and is described as being beautiful land and situated in the most fertile and healthy province of the Republic.

THE FORESTER'S BLACK BOOK.

AAA! It is against our orders, if not against the law, for young maidens to come into the woods to pick up faggots, even though

they be made only of the dropped boughs from doddered old trees, or the refuse loppings of the woodman's axe. Even if you should happen to be the woodman's daughter herself, the forest laws are strict, and you must answer for it. But I know that you are not the woodman's daughter. Her name is Katinka, and (but this I say to myself) she has a sour face and a crooked temper; while, poor little bird! if you only knew now pretty you are, in my eyes at least, you would scarcely stand there so piteously, thinking I mean to harm thee. Well, here I set my foot on this basket, and well for you that you had not been caught with it full of firewood outside the edge of the wood. (Had I met you with it I must have carried it for you; for it is too heavy for your poor little arms.) Now; your name, and the name of your father, and where you live. I must have all these; but you need not be afraid—I shall not be hard upon you. Poor dear! little does she think that her name, and her image, too, is written on my heart ever since I watched her at the cottage window,

tending her sick mother. My cottage, though it is only a forester's hut, is better and more weatherproof than theirs, and I have a cosy kitchen and a dresserful of white ware and a ditch of bacon on the rack, and can always have a bird, a rabbit, or a hare for the asking. I could buy her better clothes, too, and sound shoes for her poor little feet. It would be but a rough cage in the wild wood for such a sweet home bird; but what a brute she must think me!—brute! ay, Brutus himself, the dog there, looks more compassionate than I, and would help her if he could. Come, don't cry, child; you shall not go empty-handed for want of a bundle or two of wood. I will walk with you to the roadside, where there is a stack of faggots that belong to a friend of mine, and you shall carry one of them home; or, better still, I will get a boy to bring it for you, basket and all. You think me a rough, cruel fellow, no doubt; but I can't bear to see tears in those pretty eyes. Nay, don't blush and look frightened. All eyes are pretty, you know; even mine were thought so once (what



ENTERED IN THE FORESTER'S BLACK BOOK.

a fool I am making of myself). I must call to-night to see whether you have given me a right address, and if I find it is as you say, why, as you've taken nothing away, we'll say no more about the law. I wonder if she has a lover already, and whether she loves him. To-night shall settle the matter yea or nay, for I have short time for courtship! and yet if I could win her I might be content to wait. Pshaw! and have the birds snared, and the trees cut down and a band of desperados playing havoc the while—no, no! I must know the worst or the best at once.) So farewell young maiden, and look to see me about sundown, for here is the boy, and here a bundle of wood that will last till tomorrow, at all events. Who knows what may happen before you sweep its ashes from the hearth.

DEPARTURE OF SADYK EFFENDI FROM CONSTANTINOPLE.

THE "little leaven" which will ultimately "leaven the whole lump" has appeared in Turkey; and, although Oriental Conservatism is hard to convince, and the fatalism that refuses to move has resisted much external force, there are signs that another principle is at work, the principle of free thought and action. It is true that it is at present under considerable difficulties that the apostles of the new philosophy, which yet is as old as creation,

advance their creed; and though Fuad Pacha, so lately dead, and Ali Pacha, have both helped on the good work secularly, and have introduced the thin edge of the wedge in political matters, it is against their Government that the preachers and teachers of the doctrines of liberty mostly address themselves. These teachers do not at present occupy a very secure position, and though the very fact that they are raising their voices and enlisting the sympathies of a host of followers is in itself ample evidence that the time is coming when the tough concretions of Mohammedanism will be broken up, they are at present likely to incur martyrdom for their bold attempts. An event has just happened in Constantinople, however, which is of more importance than it might appear to be at first sight, and the results of which on the future of the East are not yet to be estimated. Among the most ardent of the teachers of the advanced school is Sadyk Effendi, a noted orator and a professor of the schools at Bayezid. He is, in fact, the tribune of the popular quarter of Stamboul, and lived behind the great mosque of the Sultan Bayezid, whom the Franks call Bajazet. The Sadyk lived in great seclusion in a sort of underground room scantily furnished, but his pupils revere and almost worship him; and as they number some hundreds, while his followers in opinion amount to about ten thousand, it may be calculated that he represents no inconsiderable influence. For a long time past Sadyk Effendi has preached liberty, equality, and fraternity

among all men, whether they be Christians, Mussulmans, Greeks, or any other creed; declaring that all men are brothers, with a common parentage and common interests; and, since he added to these assertions the hope that mankind would one day unite in overthrowing tyranny and oppression, it may be believed that he was regarded as a dangerous character, and has at last been arrested by order of Ali Pacha and consigned to the fortress of St. Jean d'Arc. There was a tremendous ferment when this intelligence became known; and, though the people fell back on their usual submission to fate, the crowds of sympathisers who assembled around the popular teacher—the robe kissing and benediction—the general grief and consternation, were not a little remarkable as expressions of public opinion. This demonstration was not prevented by the officers on whom devolved the duty of conducting Sadyk to prison; so, perhaps, they also are touched with the growing aspiration after freedom. It cannot be denied that the bold utterances of the preacher and the manner in which he appealed to the rulers, and cited them, as it were, before Heaven to amend the evils of misgovernment, have been alarming; but sending him to prison may not successfully crush the present feeling among the people, though it may either retard or accelerate its results, for the followers of the Sadyk have sworn to deliver him at any price, even though it be the deposition of the Sultan.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 346. THE IRISH CHURCH QUESTION TWELVE YEARS AGO.

It is about twelve years ago—not more—since Mr. Edward Miall made a formal motion for the disestablishment of the Irish Church. What particular form his motion took we do not remember, nor is it worth while to ascertain. It was, in some form or other, a motion for the abolition of the Irish Church Establishment. Mr. Miall made a long, elaborate, and able speech; to which a thin and rather drowsy House listened with patience and decorum. No groans from the Conservatives interrupted the quiet flow of the honourable gentleman's eloquence, and only a few, and by no means enthusiastic, plaudits from a sparse circle of Radicals around him cheered him on. When he sat down, it was acknowledged on all hands that he had delivered a most admirable and temperate address. Great stress, we remember, was laid upon the epithet temperate. A debate sprang up, but it did not last long. Was there a division? We forget. But no matter. The exhibition was over early. Yes, the exhibition; for that was what most of us thought it was—an exhibition, and no more. No one thought that Mr. Miall was not sincere; but a great many thought the evening had been wasted. Some few deemed that possibly the Irish Establishment might at some future time be overthrown. "But not in our time, Sir; a century hence, perhaps, and then only by a revolution." "Faith!" said an Irishman, to the writer of these lines, "Miall might as well try to abolish the equator." And, in truth, we almost thought the same. Palmerston led the House then, and was strong and vigorous; and we have no doubt that he looked upon Miall as a mere dreamer of dreams. Whiggery still dominated the Cabinet. Gladstone himself never for a moment then thought that the change would come in his day, though we happen to know that not many years afterwards he said, "first Reform, and then the Irish Church." The Conservatives were in a minority, but exceedingly strong. If not masters of the situation, they were powerful enough to control it. Disraeli no more thought then of "leaping Niagara" than he dreamed of jumping over the moon; and the Earl of Derby's mission, as he said about that time, was to stem the tide of Democracy. In short, the abolition of the Irish Establishment was then in the category of improbabilities—a thing to be speculated upon by "wild theorists" like Miall, but as little likely to become an actuality, or even possible, as travelling forty miles an hour was thought to be possible by the writer when he used to rumble up to London from his native town in a stage at the rate of fifty miles in eight hours.

STRANGERS.

But even then, readers, the man who was ordained to attempt this great work, and will, probably, accomplish it, was on the Treasury bench; and on Monday last he did actually, as Premier of England, introduce a bill to do it, and got it read the first time. What an event is this when we think of it! Disraeli, in one of his novels, exclaims, "How grand are events!" Surely this is one of the grandest that he ever contemplated. Of course, the House was full to overflowing. As we passed through St. Stephen's Hall, at three o'clock, there were over 200, perhaps 300, strangers to ballot for seventy-five places in the gallery. Strangers holding members' orders used to be admitted upon the principle of first come first served; and to obtain a seat near the door leading into the central hall they would come down as early as seven in the morning and there wait till four. But now the selection is made by ballot, and the last to make his appearance has as good a chance as the first. When we arrived in the members' lobby we found a crowd even there. An order was issued to the police to keep strangers out of this place, but it could not be done. Members brought their friends up the private staircase and by other ways. The police, as soon as Mr. Speaker had passed in, made several attempts to clear the lobby of strangers. But for a long time they could not do their work effectually; for many of the strangers were chatting with members, and in such case the police must not interfere. Besides, though the regular lobby policemen have got to know the new members, the extra men necessary for such an occasion as this don't know half a score; and what if, in their zeal, they had swept a member or two out into the cold? It was a danger too dreadful to be hazarded; and so it happened that the members' lobby was for a time a scene of most unusual confusion. But only for a time. Soon Gladstone rose, and of course every member was in his place; and then the constables charged the strangers and cleared the lobby.

ECCLIASTICAL NOTABLES.

The notables—Royal, noble, and diplomatic—came down in great strength. Of Royal notables there were two, if no more—to wit, the Count de Paris, the Orleanist pretender to the throne of France. This gentleman is a frequent visitor at the House, and has been since his boyhood. He is now a tall, handsome, bearded man; and, moreover, a most courteous gentleman. "Has he any lingering hopes," we asked ourselves, "of mounting the French throne?" No doubt he has. "Hope springs immortal in the human breast," especially in the youthful breast. And is there no ground for hope? Whirligig Time has often brought round more surprising things than this. Would it be a more wonderful thing that he should be King of France than this thing he is going to see—Gladstone proposing the disestablishment and disendowment of an Established Church, and with good prospect of success? Meanwhile, rumour says that his Royal Highness is educating himself by studying books and political institutions and men for this possible event. The other Royal personage was Field Marshal the Commander-in-Chief—no! we beg pardon, the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief—his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge. He came late, but of course there was a place reserved for him. As we saw his Royal Highness pass swiftly across the lobby, we again began questioning ourselves. "What will his Royal Highness do," we asked, "in this crisis, when Gladstone's bill goes, as it certainly will do, to the Upper House?" In the battles for Catholic emancipation two Royal Dukes—to wit, York and Cumberland—sturdily and somewhat fiercely opposed the measure. The Duke of York, as we remember, was for a long time the main hope of the advocates of Protestant ascendancy, a real, and true, and faithful defender *fidei*, whose health used to be drunk at all Tory gatherings with three times three and volleys of Kentish fire; and his famous speech on the coronation oath ornamented or disfigured every available wall. Do our readers remember the answer of old General Thompson (still alive) to this speech? It is too long to give here, but as there will be much talk about the coronation oath within the next few months, we will snatch a little space for a paragraph of it. The Sovereign swears that he or she will, "to the utmost of my power maintain," amongst other things, "the Protestant reformed religion as by law established," &c. The Duke of York held that this oath bound Majesty not to consent to alter the law. Whereupon General Thompson, in his terse way—"The confounding maintenance of the law with the keeping the law always in its existing state is as absurd as if a man were to fancy that when he sings, drunk or sober, 'may he protect our laws,' it means may he refuse his assent to the repeal of an Act of Parliament. It is in the King's capacity of a commander of foot, horse, and dragons that he is to protect our laws, and not by refusal to co-operate in his legislative capacity in such alterations as may from time to time be found needful." This is a digression. Granted; but, if our readers will reflect upon it, it will be found more valuable than all the rest of the article. There was quite a rookery of Bishops up stairs. The head of the ecclesiastical hierarchy, the Archbishop of Canterbury, was there. He sat next to the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief. Suggestive, this, of the alliance, in old times, of the Church and the Army—Army agreeing to help Church in time of need, Church binding itself to help Army with more formidable spiritual weapons. We have said "alliance, in old times," but the alliance exists still; and only a few years ago we saw titles collected in Ireland at the point of the bayonet. But the two representatives alluded to—of the Church and the Army—have come down to hear how the Prime Minister proposes to dissolve this alliance, as far as Ireland

is concerned, for ever. Is not this a wondrous dish to set before a Commander-in-Chief and a Primate of all England? The Lords were so numerous that many of them could not find seats. Mr. Speaker, seeing this, graciously permitted a few of them to overflow into the members' gallery. Of diplomatic chiefs there were not many, but a considerable number of diplomatic secretaries. The ubiquitous Mr. Reverdy Johnson, of course, was present.

A FALLEN HERO.

Down stairs, under the gallery, snugly seated at the back, by special permission, there was a notable, or ci-devant notable, on whom every eye would have been fixed if the members had known that he was present; the name of him being Jefferson Davis—a name at the mention of which, but lately, the world, or at least the Yankee world, grew pale; and, although it has no terrors now, it will certainly be historic. We caught a sight of the ex-President of the Southern Confederacy, and his appearance quite disappointed us. We had imagined that the presiding genius over such a powerful confederacy—for such Mr. Jefferson Davis was—must be a man of striking, commanding appearance. He is, however, anything but that. He is of the middle height, rather under it than over; very thin; and if there be anything remarkable in his features, any indications of power, we failed to discern it. But then we must remember that this was not the proud, unbending, victorious dictator that we saw, but the conquered, baffled, dethroned usurper; not the president of a republic, with a quarter of a million soldiers at his command, but a ruined adventurer, who had thrown for a kingdom and lost his all. And further, that, after years of incarceration, he has, with a sort of contemptuous mercy, just been let out of gaol. The port and appearance of the ex-President was most likely much more imposing when he sat in his presidential chair at Richmond, with the news of victories pouring in upon him from every quarter; and very different to that of the bowed, stricken, disconsolate man who glided through the lobby on Monday night. Had he entered that lobby when he was at the zenith of his glory, what a crowd of members would have gathered round him! But now he comes and goes, unnoticed and unknown. We remember the time when peers, baronets, and high-born commoners would have unbowed before him; but now scarcely anyone greets him, and there are none so poor as do him reverence. *Vae victis!* The loser pays; nevertheless, we could scarcely help pitying him.

EXPECTATION ON TIPTOE.

It was about five of the clock when Gladstone rose to unfold his wondrous scheme. The House was crammed, and the appearance of it, taking a bird's-eye view from a good position in the gallery, was imposing. And here note one significant fact. All on the right of the Speaker are Liberals to a man; but all are not Conservatives on the other side. Liberalism, as you see, has overflowed its banks, and usurped some score of seats below the gangway on the Opposition side. The House is divided equally: room for so many Liberals on the right and so many Conservatives on the left. But if the Liberals number a hundred more than the Conservatives, of course they must take possession of the seats which they have conquered. And thus "below the gangway" on the Conservative side will come to have a new meaning; and if this goes on we may expect to hear Mr. Disraeli addressing his opponents as the honourable members opposite and honourable members below the gangway on this side. What a curious result will this be of his own measure! But now the private and other precedent business is done, and Mr. Speaker, standing, calls out "Mr. Gladstone," and the Premier rises, and straightway a salute of enthusiastic cheers greets the great orator. Then there is a rustling as of wings, with cries of "Order, order," as tardy members sink to their places, followed by a silence as profound as that of a secluded valley high up in the mountains, than which we know of no silence more profound; and then all eyes are turned to him who is, under these grave, solemn, deeply interesting circumstances, about to address the House. As this is a subject connected with religion, according to a rule of the House it must be considered in Committee. The Premier, therefore, has to move that the Speaker do leave the chair. This is soon done, and Mr. Dodson having taken his seat at the table, the leader of the House commences his task. There were two circumstances on this occasion which rendered the House so anxious to hear our great orator. Some scores of the new members had never heard him; but, beyond and above this, so well had the Government secret been kept that probably not six members out of the Cabinet knew how Gladstone meant to accomplish his great work. The Conservatives anticipated a failure. "It is easy," they said, "to declare that the Irish Church shall be disestablished and disendowed; but, when Gladstone shall attempt to do it, he will find himself confronted by a hundred insuperable difficulties, on some of which he will be sure to get wrecked." The Liberals, too, were anything but sanguine. Whiggery feared that the measure would be too sweeping. Radicalism that it would be not sufficiently complete. No wonder, then, that the attention on all sides was profound. The Conservatives were anxious to discover some blot—some weakness—which they might fix upon in Committee. The mere Whigs trembled lest vested interests should not be sufficiently recognised and guarded. The Radicals feared lest Gladstone should let his old Church affections stand in the way of making an ultimate clean sweep of what they call this abomination.

THE SPEECH.

It is not our duty here, nor is it within our power, to criticise the scheme which the Prime Minister occupied over three hours in unfolding. Our duty is to describe, not to discuss; and now, first, we will give our opinion of this speech. We have heard all the great speeches which this finished orator has delivered during the last fourteen or fifteen years. We heard much of this speech, and have seen and read it also; and we have come to this decision, that this is the greatest oration he ever delivered. We have heard Gladstone when he was more rhetorical, more fervid; when he roused more excitement, elicited more applause; but we never heard him deliver a speech here, nor hardly any other man, so masterly, so statesman-like as this. His grasp of this vast and complex subject was wonderful. The skill with which he mapped out the path which he had to tread was never excelled, and never in our time paralleled; whilst the ease with which he firmly trod the paths, and the almost magical power with which he enchanted his hearers to follow him with unflinching attention for more than three hours with no sign of restlessness or fatigue, seemed to be something more than human. There was not much cheering; the members were too deeply absorbed to cheer. In truth, readers, we always knew that Gladstone was a great man; but when we had heard and read this speech, the Premier loomed much larger upon our vision than he had ever done before. The special characteristic of the speech we must mention, because it is something new in the Prime Minister's oratory, and that is, the compactness, the purity, the unworriedness of it—if we may coin a word. Gladstone's style is always clear. No hearer could ever say that he was unintelligible; but often he is too diffuse, and at times he heaps up words, which, if they do not obscure his meaning, certainly weaken the effect which he aims to produce. But on this occasion his style was almost as close as that of Mr. Bright. There was in that vast harangue scarcely a word too much nor a word out of place; and every sentence—polished, and clear of alliteration and redundancy—went straight to the ears and understanding of his auditory as arrow from a Tartar's bow. There was no discussion. Once in Parliamentary history, when a great orator had finished a grand harangue, the House adjourned, at the desire of the Minister, that members might get free of the impression of that speech. Something of this sort the House seemed to feel on Monday night.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY will hold its ensuing exhibition in the new galleries at Burlington House.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE WAR IN NEW ZEALAND.

Earl GRANVILLE read a telegram which had been received at the Colonial Office from the Governor of New Zealand, dated Jan. 18, which stated that the main stronghold of the rebel Maories was stormed on the 5th of the month by the colonial forces, under Colonel Whitmore, with a loss of twenty-two killed and wounded on the part of the assailants, and of 100, including prisoners, on that of the natives. Another telegraphic message from Melbourne spoke of the war as at an end.

REPRESSION OF CRIME.

The Earl of KIMBERLEY propounded the measure of the Government for the further suppression of criminal offences. Deprecating the infliction of imprisonment for life, the noble Lord insisted on the full sentence of penal servitude being carried out; and argued that prisoners for life, sent out for the public works, and criminal lunatics who, after years of confinement, became sane, ought to have some term-limits. The bill proposed to extend police supervision, and throw on the criminal the burden of the proof that he was leading an honest life. A register would be kept of all licenses granted, and any person holding one might be summoned by the police before a magistrate, and called upon to show that he was living honestly. Failing to do so, he would then be remitted to undergo his original sentence. In the case of persons convicted of felony a second time, it would be a part of the sentence that they should be subject to police supervision for seven years; and during that period they might be summoned by the police to show that they were earning an honest livelihood, and in default be imprisoned for one year. A similar provision would apply were licensed convicts were found in suspicious circumstances, and about to commit a crime. For third convictions the sentence would never be less than seven years' penal servitude. In the case of receivers of stolen goods, after the first conviction they would be required to show that the goods were not stolen, and would not be allowed to plead simple ignorance of the fact. The bill also dealt with the case of vagrants. It would not interfere with the liberties of the innocent, but would greatly strengthen the administration of justice.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SPECIAL AND COMMON JURIES.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, replying to an inquiry of Lord Epsford, announced that a measure was to be introduced in the course of the Session, founded upon the recommendations of the Select Committee of 1868, in special and common juries.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHARITIES.

Mr. NEWDEGATE moved for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the operation of the Act to amend the law regarding Roman Catholic charities, 23rd and 24th Vict., c. 134, and into that of any Acts passed subsequently, which may, or may have been held to, modify or alter the operation of that Act, or which relate to the subject matter thereof; also into the operation of the Act 22nd Geo. III., c. 146, and into that of the 27th and 28th Vict., c. 97, which Acts relate to the registration of burials. The hon. gentleman stated, as grounds for instituting the proposed inquiry, that the law had been evaded, and that the record of enrolment of these charities were in a confused and disorderly condition, whilst the accumulation of property by the Roman Catholic hierarchy was going on at so rapid a rate as to constitute a serious evil.

Mr. GREENE seconded the motion, and, no one rising to continue the debate, the House went to a division—the first of the Session—and negative the question by 85 to 46.

MONDAY, MARCH 1.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE IRISH CHURCH.

Crowded benches and overflowing galleries testified to the anxious interest excited by the great business of the night—the introduction of the Irish Church Bill. Long before the Speaker took the chair every seat in the House was retained, and the influx of strangers, "disinherited" and ordinary, was far in excess of the accommodation provided. In Committee of the whole House, after the heads of the Acts relating to the Establishment of the Church of Ireland and Maynooth, and the first Resolution of last year had been read.

Mr. GLADSTONE, who was vehemently cheered by his supporters, proceeded to unfold his plan, prefacing it by a long exordium, in which he glanced rapidly at the previous stages of the question, and answered by anticipation some of the principal objections to his policy. Recalling then the pledges given by those who had taken up the question, he predicated of the bill that it should put an immediate end to the establishment and the public endowment of the Irish Church, that it should be thorough, but at the same time liberal and indulgent, prompt in its operation, and final in every respect. He divided his description of the bill into three parts—its immediate effect, its effect at a certain time fixed (but not unalterably) at Jan. 1, 1871; and its operation when what he called the process of winding up the affairs of the Irish Church was brought to a close. On the first head, the bill provided that the present Ecclesiastical Commission should be at once wound up, and a new Commission appointed for ten years, in which the property of the Irish Church, subject to life interests, would be vested from the time of the passing of the bill. So that, technically and legally, there would be an immediate disendowment of the Irish Church. Disestablishment would be postponed until Jan. 1, 1871. At that date the union between the Churches of England and Ireland would be dissolved, all ecclesiastical corporations would be abolished, the ecclesiastical courts would cease, and the ecclesiastical laws would no longer be binding as laws, except that they would be understood to exist as the terms of the voluntary contract between clergy and laity until they were altered by the governing body of the disestablished Church. In the interval between the passing of the Act and this date of Jan. 1, 1871, and during the reorganisation of the Church, it was proposed that appointments should be made to spiritual offices, but that they should not carry with them the freehold or confer vested interests. Appointments also would be made in the same provisional and temporary manner to vacant bishoprics, but only on the prayer of the bishops to consecrate a particular person to a vacancy; but these appointments, too, would carry with them no vested interests and no rights of peerage. Crown livings, also, in the interval between the two periods would be filled up on the same principles. To assist in the reorganisation of the Church, and to favour the creation of a body which could negotiate on behalf of the Church with the Commissioners, the Convention Act, which prevented the assembling of the clergy and laity of the Church, would be at once repealed; and power would be given to the Queen in Council to recognise any governing body which the clergy and laity of the disestablished Church might agree on, and which actually represented both; and that body would be incorporated. Assuming that by Jan. 1, 1871, or some other date to be substituted in the bill, this governing body would have been constituted, Mr. Gladstone spent more than an hour in explaining the complicated details of the arrangements for dealing with the Church and its property in its disestablished condition. And first he explained how vested interests would be met. A vested interest he defined to be the title of an incumbent (including in this term bishops and dignitaries as well as beneficed clergy) to receive a certain annuity out of the property of the Church (fees, pew rents, &c., being put out of the question), in consideration of the performance of a certain duty. The Commissioners would ascertain the amount of each incumbent's income, deducting what he paid for curates; and, so long as he continued to discharge his duties, that income would be paid him; but he might apply to have this commuted into an annuity for life. It was not proposed to interfere compulsorily with the position of the incumbent in relation to his freehold or the incidents of his lordship, with three exceptions—that his title to the tithe rent-charge would be vested immediately in the Commissioners, that the freehold of churches wholly in ruins would be taken from the incumbent, and that the peerage rights of the Irish bishops would cease at once. The compensation to curates will be of two kinds. What Mr. Gladstone called "transitory curates" will be dealt with on a principle borrowed from the Civil Service Superannuation Act, and will be dismissed with a gratuity; but permanent curates—i.e., those who have been employed in the same parish from Jan. 1, 1869, to Jan. 1, 1871—or have left their employment not from their own free will or misconduct, will be entitled to compensation on the same principle as the incumbents. Mr. Gladstone was also careful to point out that this would be paid by the incumbents. Private endowments would not be touched, and these Mr. Gladstone said would be the only "marketable property" conveyed to the Church. But he limited the term to money contributed from private sources since the year 1660, and pointed out that it would not include churches and glebe-houses. As to churches, wherever the "governing body" made an application, accompanied by a declaration that they meant either to maintain the church for public worship, or to remove it to some more convenient position, it would be handed over to them; but in the case of St. Patrick's Cathedral, and about a dozen other churches partaking of the character of national memorials, the Commissioners would be empowered to allot a moderate sum for their maintenance. Churches not in use, and not capable of being restored for purposes of worship would be handed over to the Board of Works, with an allocation of funds sufficient for their maintenance. On the knotty point of glebe houses Mr. Gladstone said he had seen reason to modify his views of last year. They were not marketable property, for though an expenditure on them of £1,200,000 could be traced distinctly, their annual value was only £18,600, and there was a quarter of a million of building charges on them which the State would have to pay on coming into possession. It was, therefore, proposed to hand over the glebe-houses to the governing body on their paying the building charges, and they would be allowed to purchase a certain amount of glebe land round the houses at a fair valuation. The burial grounds adjacent to churches would go with the churches, all existing rights being preserved, and other burial-grounds would be handed over to the guardians of the poor. Passing

to the mode in which he proposed to deal with the Regium Donum and the Maynooth Grant, amounting together to about £70,000. Mr. Gladstone said that the Presbyterian ministers, recipients of the Regium Donum, would be compensated on the same principles as the incumbents of the disestablished Church; and, in regard both to the grant to Maynooth and the grants to Presbyterian colleges—in order to give ample time for the necessary arrangements and to avoid the sudden shock and disappointment to individuals—there would be a valuation of all the interests in these grants at fourteen years' purchase of the capital amount annually voted. This portion of his speech he concluded by an elaborate explanation of a scheme for the final extinction of the tithe rent-charge in forty-five years. Landlords would be allowed, if they chose, to purchase it at twenty-two and a half years' purchase, and if they did not accept the offer they would come under another and a general operation. There would be a compulsory sale to them of the tithe rent-charge, at a rate which would yield 4½ per cent; and, on the other side, they would be credited with a loan at 3½ per cent, payable in instalments in forty-five years. The power of purchase would remain in the hands of the tenants for three years after the passing of the Act, and it was also proposed that the tenants should have a right of pre-emption of all lands sold by the Commission, and that three-fourths of the purchase-money might be left on the security of the land. The financial results of these operations Mr. Gladstone stated thus:—The tithe rent-charge would yield £9,000,000; lands and perpetuity rents, £6,250,000; money, £750,000—total, £16,000,000; the present value of the property of the Irish Church. Of this the bill would dispose—£4,500,000—viz.:—vested interests of incumbents, £4,500,000; curates, £800,000; lay compensation, £900,000; private endowments, £200,000; building charges, £250,000; commutation of Maynooth grant and Regium Donum, £1,100,000; and expenses of the Commission, £200,000. Consequently, there would remain a surplus of between £7,000,000 and £8,000,000; and Mr. Gladstone roused the flagging attention of the House by the interesting question—What shall we do with it? The indispensable conditions he held to be that the purposes to which the surplus was applied should be Irish, that they should not be religious, that they should be final, and open the door to no new controversy. He discussed at length the various suggestions which had been made, dismissing them all as impossible or radically wrong; and, after keeping the House some time in suspense, he announced, quoting the words of the preamble of the bill, that the Government had concluded to apply the surplus to the relief of "unavoidable calamities and suffering" not provided for by the poor law. Proceeding to details, he allocated £185,000 for lunatic asylums, £20,000 a year to idiot asylums, £30,000 to training schools for the deaf, dumb, and blind, £15,000 a year for the training of nurses, £10,000 for reformatories, and £51,000 to county infirmaries—in all £231,000 a year. Mr. Gladstone concluded his speech, which occupied upwards of three hours, in a powerful peroration, which was cheered loudly and long, and, while sympathising with the sacrifices the Irish clergy were called on to make, he claimed for the bill that, though it loyally carried out all his pledges, it treated them in a liberal and indulgent spirit. The task was one which would test the mettle not only of the Government but of every party and even every individual member, and by which the fame of the House must be sensibly affected for good or evil; but, notwithstanding its magnitude, he was sanguine that the close of the controversy was near at hand.

Mr. DISRAELI followed immediately, and declared, with much emphasis, that the opinion of the Opposition remained unchanged, that disestablishment was a political error, and disendowment—especially when accompanied by secularisation—mere and sheer confiscation. Under ordinary circumstances he should have opposed the introduction of the bill; but, looking to the verdict of the country at the general election, which he interpreted to mean that Mr. Gladstone should have an opportunity of dealing with the question of the Irish Church, and to the action of the late Government on that verdict, Mr. Gladstone ought not, in fairness, to be precluded from submitting his policy to the House. He advised his friends, therefore, not to oppose the motion, but he pressed for a delay of three weeks before the second reading.

Mr. GLADSTONE declined to postpone it so long, and ultimately the second reading was fixed for Thursday, March 18, with which arrangement Mr. Disraeli expressed himself satisfied.

Leave was then given to introduce the bill, and it was read the first time.

TUESDAY, MARCH 2. HOUSE OF LORDS.

A short debate took place on a motion of Earl CLARENDON for the second reading of the bill for the repeal of Lord Aberdeen's Act, which authorises British vessels to seize Brazilian traders carrying slaves. The trade in slaves had ceased, his Lordship said, and the Act should be repealed, as it was causing affront to the Brazilian Government. Lord Chelmsford and Lord Cairns were quite willing to have the Act repealed, and they thought it never ought to have been passed. Lord Grey and Earl Granville defended the measure, as justified by the circumstances of the time. The bill was read.

The Common Law Courts (Ireland) Bill was then read the second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Mr. GLADSTONE, in answer to Mr. Rylands, while regretting the present state of the law in respect to the exclusion of persons having Government contracts from Parliament, was unable to promise any relief this Session.

Mr. C. FORTESCUE assured Sir T. Bateson that it was not in contemplation to appoint Cardinal Cullen a member of the Privy Council in Ireland; and the same member was told by Mr. GLADSTONE that Government had not come to an absolute determination in the case of vacant Irish Church livings. They would take care that the wants of parishes were adequately supplied pending present legislation; but they thought no great inconvenience could arise from a temporary delay in making an appointment.

Mr. CHILDERS, in answer to Alderman Look, said Government had already introduced the Australian and other preserved meats into the Navy with success, and that a reference would be made to the experiment in the coming discussion on the Estimates.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Mr. ACLAND, in asking for a Select Committee to inquire into the action with reference to agriculture of various public authorities, with a view to consider the expediency of recommending that some one department be made responsible for dealing with administrative and legislative questions affecting agriculture, contended that the agricultural interest ought to be represented in Parliament and the Government by one responsible Minister, and that the whole of the roads and bridges should be brought under one management.

Mr. BRIGHT advised the agricultural interest to have as little as possible to do with Governmental departments, for at no period had they less reason to complain than at the present moment. Rents were well paid, and their prospects were most satisfactory. Sunshine, showers, and industry were better for them than any interference on the part of the House of Commons. At the same time, if the Board of Trade and the Home Office could do anything in the direction to which the motion pointed, he was sure it would be done.

Mr. ACLAND, accepting the assurance as satisfactory, consented to the withdrawal of his proposal.

THE COMPOUNDING SYSTEM.

Mr. SHERIDAN moved for leave to bring in a measure to amend the clauses in the new Reform Act relative to the abolition of compounding; and Mr. LOCKE KING seconded the motion.

Mr. GLADSTONE said that although the Government were prepared to deal with the evil themselves, they would not object to see it taken in hand by a private member. The bill was accordingly introduced.

THE POOR LAW IN SCOTLAND.

Mr. CRAWFORD moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the operation of the poor law in Scotland, and dwell on the permanent hostility between the poor and the rich that had grown up under the present system. The motion was ultimately agreed to, after a debate in which a number of Scotch members took part.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

METROPOLITAN STREET TRAMWAYS.

The House was engaged, during the early portion of its sitting, in considering the Metropolitan Street Tramways Bill, on the order for the second reading. The opposition to the measure was led by Mr. Pease (a member for a northern county), who moved an amendment for its rejection on the ground that the past experience of tramways in the suburbs of London was not encouraging to the adoption of the proposal. A more practical and generally-felt objection was, that it would create a monopoly of the roads in the hands of a company of speculators, and seriously inconvenience the ordinary traffic. This view of the matter was strongly urged by Mr. Locke, in the name of the vestry of St. George the Martyr, Southwark, who had petitioned against the bill, chiefly, as it appeared, because it proposed to construct a tramway across Blackfriars-road, through Southwark-street, to the Borough. On the other hand, Captain Grosvenor strenuously supported the bill in the interest of the public, its convenience and comfort; and contended that, whilst it would introduce the wholesome principle of competition in the conveyance of passengers through the great lines of thoroughfare, it would not interfere with the ordinary traffic. After some further discussion the House divided, and the amendment was rejected by 209 to 78, and thereupon the bill was read the second time, and, at the instance of Mr. T. Hughes, ordered to be referred to the Select Committee on the Pimlico, Peckham, and Greenwich Street Tramways Bill.

SUNDAY TRADING.

The Sunday Trading Bill, the second reading of which was proposed by Mr. T. Hughes, met with a show of opposition on the part of Mr. P. Taylor and Dr. Brady; but an amendment moved by the former was, after a brief discussion, withdrawn, and the bill read the second time upon the understanding that it would be referred to a Select Committee.

ELECTION EXPENSES.

Mr. FAWCETT, in moving that his Election Expenses Bill be read a second time, explained that its object was to charge the legal expenses incurred at elections on the county rates in counties, and the borough rates in towns. He said that he anticipated he might be asked by the Government to consent to the bill being sent to the Select Committee on Parliamentary and municipal elections, which the Home Secretary was to move for this day; but to the adoption of that course he was decidedly opposed, and was determined to proceed with it as an independent measure.

Mr. AYRTON, who represented the Government, pointed out that the bill was only one part of a large subject, and expressed his regret that its promoter had determined not to consent to its being referred to the Committee which was about to inquire into the mode of conducting Parliamentary and municipal elections, and considering whether it was possible to provide further guarantees for purity and freedom of elections. He advised that the bill should be read the second time, and urged Mr. Fawcett to consent to its going before the Committee referred to.

Mr. FAWCETT persisting in his determination to refuse all compromise, a division was taken, and the bill thrown out by a majority of three, the numbers being 168 against 165.

LUNATIC ASYLUMS IN IRELAND.

On the motion of Colonel FRENCH it was ordered that a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the management and cost of the lunatic asylums in Ireland.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4. HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord SALISBURY moved the second reading of the Parliamentary Proceedings Bill, which was agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

Mr. HARDY (in the absence of Mr. Disraeli) gave notice that on the motion for the second reading of the Irish Church Bill, Mr. Disraeli would move that the bill be read the second time that day six months.

THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

The House then went into Committee, and Mr. LOWE said the Government had received no further information from India since Dec. 17. It was, however, necessary that the Indian Government should be reimbursed at once, and that must be his excuse for asking for a grant of £3,600,000. The payments that had actually been made in the expedition to Abyssinia were—War Office, £461,000; Admiralty, £1,262,000; Government of India, £7,040,000; total, £8,763,000. After some discussion the vote was agreed to.

PARLIAMENTARY AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Mr. BRUCE moved for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the present modes of conducting Parliamentary and municipal elections, in order to provide further guarantees for their tranquillity, purity, and freedom.

Mr. G. HARDY hoped this would not in any sense be a one-sided inquiry. If an inquiry took place, he hoped the question of intimidation by mobs would not be left out of the matter.

Mr. GLADSTONE said the interest of the inquiry would no doubt centre round the ballot, but it would be very undesirable that any one nominated on the Committee should go into the inquiry with a foregone conclusion. The present appeared to be a fair opportunity of examining into the whole matter.

The motion was agreed to.

A new writ was issued for Bewdley.

Mr. ANTONIO BRADY, who was mainly instrumental in causing the apprehension of a naval officer and one of the principal clerks at Somerset House on a charge of conspiracy, is now, accompanied by one or two detectives, following up the case by visiting the various Royal dockyards. Mr. Brady has been at Sheerness and terminated his inquiries there.

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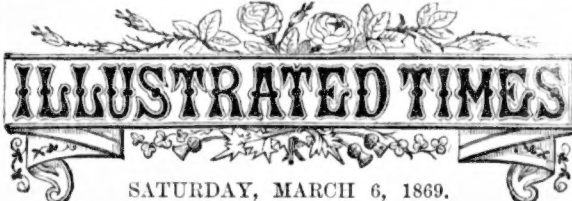
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SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1869.

THE REPRESSION OF CRIME BILL.

WE hinted in a recent number of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES, under the title of "The New Era," at the intrusion, or, to save controversy, the entrance, of a new element into the tendencies of politico-social legislation. That tendency may be roughly described as the tendency to what is called paternal government; it has usually been treated as a Tory or Imperialist bias, which indeed it is; and its ultimate logic, the end it points to, and, as far as history and observation teach us, the end it comes to, is invariably despotism. The instrument of rule in the case of a democratic despotism is the will of the majority—that is, the least cultivated class. Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Permissive Bill not pass; but, if it did, it would be an instance of democratic despotism: the cultivated and self-restraining classes would be made to suffer by the will of the less cultivated, just because there were people who could not keep within bounds. Yet, though this bill will not pass, it will have a much larger following in the present Parliament than it had in the last; and it is not the only visible indication of the new or meddlesome tendency.

We have referred to this merely by way of illustration. Perhaps the very first hint that one would be likely to see in practice of the growth of the paternal or interfering bias in any country in which it had long been in abeyance, would be a disposition to enlarge the power, and, above all, the discretion, of the police. This sign of the times is not wholly wanting at the present moment.

Our criminal population, consisting largely of ticket-of-leave men, has long been a sore trouble to us. There are about 15,000 people in London who exist entirely by crime; by preying on the honest and laborious among whom they dwell. It is not necessary to repeat the familiar tale; it is on all hands recognised that we must do something to protect ourselves from the tribe of reckless and often violent plunderers who live in our midst. What is to be done? Mr. Bruce's bill, introduced in the House of Lords by Lord Kimberley, is the answer of the Government to this question. Most of our readers must already have a good idea of what its general provisions are. The general principles of the measure are that a stronger hand is to be kept upon those who have already been convicted of crime; and that people who have been convicted of felony may be called

upon at any time to prove that they are earning an honest livelihood. The Vagrancy Act is carried farther, and the police are to have largely-increased powers of dealing with suspicious characters whom they may catch in certain places under circumstances that they may think doubtful. Lastly, the discretionary term of imprisonment for assaulting the police in the execution of their duty is considerably increased.

As a measure showing the disposition of the Government to deal decisively with the repression of certain classes of crime, this is an acceptable bill, and, with some modification, it will become law. For a time, too, it will do good. But it is not without its dangerous points; and, with all its stringency, the stringency is not that of hope and courage so much as of despair. It is quite certain, on the face of things, that we are in front of an enemy who will not be conquered thus. When we say conquered, we do not, of course, mean that crime will ever be clean snuffed out; but that is not the point. We must bring our treatment of crime up to the mark of our civilisation in other respects. Then we shall have conquered it as far as conquest is possible. But it is obvious that though the effect of any measure of this kind must be to prevent a certain number of burglaries, it will also tend to the creation of a distinctly criminal caste. This may be inevitable as a step on the road, but it is a horrible necessity, and, philosophically considered, a retrograde step. It is, in fact, mere retaliation and self-protection. We must do it, but let us not fold our hands on the task when it is done. The prospect before us is appalling. How many hundreds or thousands of small neglected boys in England are growing up criminals? In a very few years more we shall have, as the French say, to count with this new army of criminals. They will have overtaken us long before any scheme of national education can be brought to bear; and here, if anywhere, is the great peril of the hour. In an hour's walk through London streets you meet, perhaps, a hundred little boys and girls, grimy, ragged, and reckless, swarming out of courts and alleys, and playing in gutters, and holes, and corners. They appear to belong to nobody, and at least half their number have the stamp of—well, of "something dangerous," on their wretched faces. Under the new bill, any one of these boys who has, we will say, stolen some trifle or other, becomes a member of the criminal caste, under the superintendence of the police. We are almost tempted to add to the admission that this measure will prevent some crimes, that it will probably lead to a good many more. One wonders how many of these miserable, untaught little wretches will have to spend their whole lives in prison, with just occasional holidays in the street for the purpose of giving them another chance of getting remanded to gaol.

On the difficulties which might arise in working such a measure it is unnecessary to dwell: they are obvious. They will be considered during the progress of the bill, and especially in the Lower House; and what most deeply strikes ourselves is the desperate character of the policy we are driven to—what an admission it is for a great nation to make in the face of the world! Yet the practical difficulties will be considerable. One is the expense—the cost to the country of, so to speak, a perpetually beleaguered class. Another is the fact that it must occasionally, perhaps we may say frequently, consign to fresh imprisonment people who would live honestly if they could. It has been proved by the statistics of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, and otherwise, that a large number of criminals never offend again if they only have a chance of gaining an honest livelihood. But just think of a man who is trying to get such a chance, hovering, as he must almost of necessity do, after one imprisonment, between starvation and he knows not what, being suddenly called upon, at the discretion of a policeman, to prove that he is actually earning his bread honestly! Conceive, again, the effect of the increased discretion given to the police, in the case of persons whom they may think they have caught under suspicious circumstances! The police are, as a body, intelligent and useful; but many of them are among the most brutal beings in London, and nearly as bad as the criminals. They are all of them inclined, as ignorant men usually are, to magnify their own office; and they delight in professional éclat. Those who have, by the wrongdoing of a servant or otherwise, been brought into contact with two or three of the force, may perhaps have discovered that the policeman has a lively sense of his power of making himself disagreeable to respectable people by his mere presence, and that the only ready way of getting rid of him, even when he knows there is nothing for him to do, is the exhibition of half a crown and a glass of brandy-and-water. Anything that gives these men an increased idea of their own power and an extended right of acting on their own responsibility, contains an implicit threat to every member of the community. However, the bill has yet to undergo a good deal of discussion, in which, by-the-by, we shall find reasons to regret the absence of Mr. Mill and (though his presence was not on other grounds desirable) Mr. Roebuck. It is a little irritating to find Conservative newspapers taunting Liberals with having given up the liberty of the subject as the line of their programme, but by the time this, on the whole, necessary and desirable measure is licked into shape, one hopes they may find their boasting a little premature. At the same time, it is undeniable that the bill has a general physiognomy which a little excuses them.

THE NEW CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

We this week present our readers with a Portrait of Colonel Henderson, the new chief of the Metropolitan Police. As has already been stated in these columns, Colonel Henderson belongs to the Royal Engineers; his services, however, have mainly been of a civil character, like those of many of his brother officers; and they have been of a nature eminently suited to qualify him for the trying post for which he has been chosen from among so many. Nearly twenty years ago Colonel Henderson sailed for Western Australia with a ship-load of convicts and a company of sappers, to make the arrangements for their establishment there. At the end of several years spent in successfully carrying out this scheme, he was appointed to a civil office under the Australian Government, which he held a considerable time. Soon after his arrival at home, on giving up his colonial appointment, Colonel Henderson was selected to fill the office of Surveyor-General of Military and Convict Prisons, and he held that important post up to the time of his appointment to his present office. Getting credit for being a scientific soldier, and still not moulded into stiffness by many years of unmitigated pipeclay—a practised administrator under novel and trying circumstances—an officer thoroughly acquainted with the idiosyncracies of criminal character, and one who has thoroughly merited the several important offices he has filled—it is to be hoped that the new Chief Commissioner of Police will prove to be the right man in the right place.

THE NEW COURT COSTUME.

THAT this is an age of change is proved, among other things, by the fact that the spirit of change has penetrated even to the Court of her Majesty—perhaps the most conservative region in society. Whether this be owing to the fact that Mr. Bright is a Cabinet Minister, and cannot be got to wear the antiquated Court costume and perform the genuflections customary in presence of Royal personages, we do not know; but certain it is that an order was issued a few days ago by the Lord Chamberlain for the future regulation of the dress of gentlemen presented at her Majesty's Court. The gentlemen at Court may take their choice of two completely new dresses, or they may still retain the ancient Court dress, with its long waistcoat and bag wig. They may henceforth wear at Levées a dark-coloured cloth dress-coat, with a stand-up collar embroidered with gold, a white waistcoat, and dark-coloured cloth trousers, with a gold stripe down the seam; substituting for the last garments, on Drawingroom days, cloth breeches and black or white silk hose. Or they may appear in a dress consisting, for Levées, of a black silk-velvet dress-coat, with gilt, steel, or plain buttons; a white or black silk-velvet

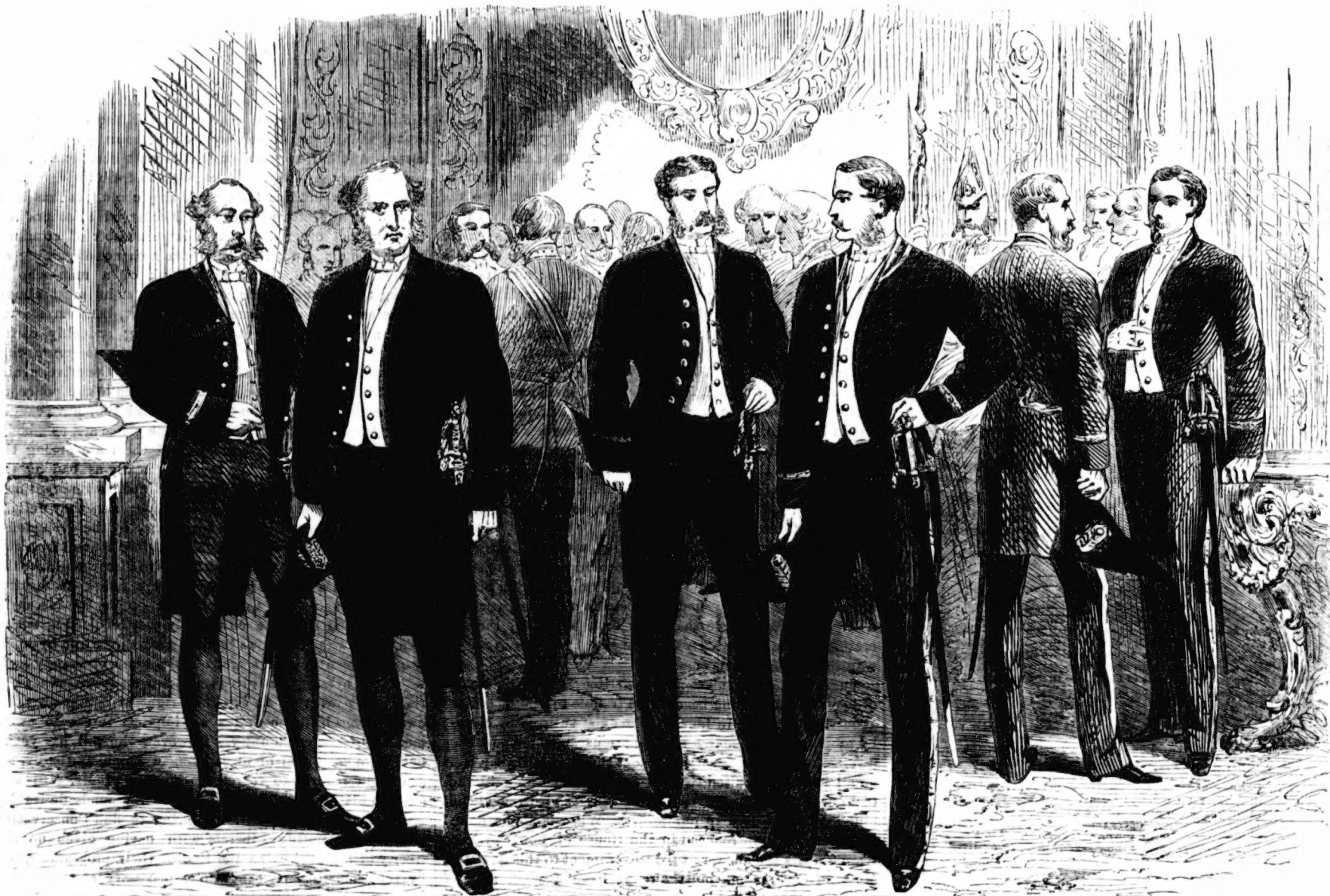


COLONEL HENDERSON, THE NEW CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE.
(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN WATKINS.)

PROPERTY BY MARRIAGE.

COURTSHIP and marriage are a good deal alike throughout the civilised world; and yet, to be naturally paradoxical on such a subject, though the manner of them is the same, it presents as many differences as similitudes. Is it a little too startling to say that the happy results of the conjugal contract depend entirely upon whether the contracting parties regard it as a question of property? There is no getting out of the fact, whatever may be our theories; and it is only by studying the laws of *real* property that men and women can hope to arrive at a happy conclusion in the holy state of matrimony. To begin with, however, these laws of *real* property, as apart from the laws of *ideal* or merely objective property (such as a personal and selfish interest in pounds, or lands, or scrip, or houses), involve that highest wisdom which the folly of mankind will continue to regard as though it were an absurdity—that most reasonable and certain proposition which is labelled "paradox," as though our little indexes gave a true name to things—the law that they only who give themselves shall be the true possessors.

Now the courtship and marriage of Fritz (he was called handsome Fritz, by-the-by, and was not altogether unacceptable as a lover) and the buxom and diligent Gretchen was, perhaps, as commonplace an affair as one would like to use as an illustration; and yet there was a good deal about it that was not commonplace, and certainly was neither mean nor sordid. There is so much of the picturesque about the life of the people in those quaint old German towns that the artist, as well as the essayist and moralist, may be attracted—and, in fact, has been attracted, as our illustrations bear witness. So well has the artist done his work, indeed, that the nose of the essayist and moralist has been, if not put out of joint, at least sunk beneath the real dignity of a nose, and become a mere indication—a kind of finger-post, or proboscis-post, just to hint to people to follow their own noses and get their own lesson out of the pictures. Fritz, who was a carpenter, lost a good deal of what rigidly world-wise, prudent people call time when he was courting; and it is a little strange that when he went in and found Gretchen always busy at her spinning he should not have had a twinge of conscience that sent him back to his bench. Perhaps he had, but he did not show it; on the contrary, he would pop in at the most opportunist inopportune moments and hinder her sadly, even to the extent of taking away her spool of flax, and whisperingly ask her how long it would be before she had finished the store of linen which she was preparing for the time that they began housekeeping. On one occasion, so abruptly had he made his appearance, and so suddenly had he propounded some such question, that over went the spinning-wheel itself, and he had a rare job to mend it—but it was a labour of love; and even before it fell,



THE NEW COURT COSTUME.

PROPERTY IN MATRIMONY: A GERMAN VERSION OF "MARRIAGE A LA MODE."



MINE.



THINE.

in that brief moment between the disturbance of its centre of gravity and its concussion with the floor, he had asked, "Mine?" and she had said something in reply which led to a wedding in the pretty, queer old church, which was hung with garlands and decorated with fresh summer flowers by their friends when the happy pair went to the altar; and even Fritz looked solemn in his gay bridegroom clothes, and dropped a joyful tear upon the scarf that held his nosegay when Gretchen said "Thine!" and the solemn prayer was offered, and the blessing was

asked upon that great property in each other which came of giving. When there came a time that they could both say "Ours," the wonderful puzzle of this matrimonial law, which made all that belonged to both the property of each, was almost too much for Fritz; but Gretchen took to it very easily indeed, and understood it better, because she was the one who had given up herself, and so was the more ready to inherit the earth. It mattered very little to Fritz if one or two envious fools, who didn't understand the eternal reason and truth of the Divine paradoxes, sneered and

hinted that Gretchen had too much influence, and was the master and mistress too, and all the other commonplace stuff that goes by the name of worldly wisdom and is founded on the platitude of lying. He knew when he was well off, and at present the carpentering trade flourishes, though that stout oaken cot was not his own work, but was a gift from the old folk. As to the occupier of the soft downy nest inside the cot itself, he is "theirs;" but he is, perhaps, a little inclined just now to look upon them as his; and they haven't yet had time to teach him better—perhaps they won't try.



OURS.



THEIRS.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN held a Court at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday afternoon. PRINCESS HELENA (Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein) was delivered of a son, at Frogmore House, Windsor, on Feb. 26. The Princess and the infant Prince are both doing well.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES, on Feb. 11, were at Assonan, situated on the borders of Nubia. It is reported at Alexandria that, owing to the Princess of Wales suffering much from the heat, the trip up the Nile, which was to occupy six weeks, will be considerably curtailed.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ARTHUR will shortly complete the course which it was intended he should go through at Woolwich, and will join the first battalion of the Rifle Brigade for service in Canada.

HER MAJESTY has been pleased to forward the munificent donation of £150 to the British and Colonial Emigration Fund, of which the Lord Mayor is president, for the relief by emigration to British colonies of the distress existing among unemployed workmen and their families.

THE EX-KING OF HANOVER has sent a fresh protest to all the German Sovereigns against the law confiscating his private property, recently adopted by the Prussian Diet.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE has appointed Major-General David Russell, C.B., to command the volunteers at the review on Easter Monday. Major-General Renny, Major-General Carey, C.B., and Major-General Sir Alfred Horsford, K.C.B., will command divisions under General Russell.

THE LEVEE announced to be held at St. James's Palace by his Royal Highness Prince Arthur, on behalf of the Queen, has been postponed to Saturday, April 5. Her Majesty will hold Drawingrooms at Buckingham Palace on Thursday, April 8, and Tuesday, May 11. Her Majesty's birthday will be celebrated on Saturday, May 29.

THE UNIVERSITY BOAT-RACE is to be rowed on the 17th inst., from Putney to Mortlake.

MR. J. A. RUSSELL, Q.C., of the Northern Circuit, has been appointed to the Judgeship of the Manchester County Court, rendered vacant by the death of Mr. Edward Owens.

A GRAND BANQUET was given on Wednesday evening at Willis's Rooms to Lord George Hamilton, M.P., in commemoration of the Conservative victory achieved in the county of Middlesex at the last general election.

THE BILL introduced by Mr. Denman, Mr. Locke King, and Mr. Lock, for the further amendment of the law of evidence, provides that the parties to any action for breach of promise of marriage, and husbands and wives in suits for adultery, shall be competent and compellable to give evidence in such actions. The Act is not intended to apply to Scotland.

THE MARQUIS OF HARTINGTON is once more a member of the House of Commons, having been elected for the Radnor Boroughs by 546 votes, against 175 given to his opponent, Mr. Phillips.

THE PARLIAMENTARY RECESS at EASTER, which has usually extended to a fortnight, is this year to be restricted to nine days—viz., from the 23rd inst. to April 1. The short holiday taken at Whitsuntide—generally extending to only four or five days—will probably this year be lengthened to ten or eleven.

THE MARRIAGE OF VISCOUNT MAHON, the eldest son of Earl Stanhope, to Miss Evelyn Pennefather, took place at St. George's, Hanover-square, on Tuesday.

MR. CHARLES DICKENS is to be entertained at a banquet in Liverpool on the 10th of April next, on occasion of his final readings in that town.

THE MILITARY EXPENDITURE IN THE COLONIES during the current year will be £2,598,886, while the repayment to the British Exchequer will amount to only £352,000.

A SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE has been issued for £3,600,000 as "the further sum required to be voted towards defraying the expenses of the expedition to Abyssinia, beyond the ordinary grants of Parliament for army and navy services."

THE CONTRIBUTIONS to the fund for defraying the expense of Mr. Gladstone's election and re-election for Greenwich were so large that the committee has determined to return to the subscribers three-sevenths of their contributions.

GENERAL CLUSERET'S BOOK "ARMEE ET DEMOCRATIE," printed in Belgium, and upon which an embargo had been laid at the request of Marshal Niel, has been released from duress, owing to the row made about it by the press.

THE IRISH AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS FOR 1858 just issued show that the acreage under the several crops has considerably increased during the year, the number of live stock has decreased, and the number of emigrants has decreased.

VERY GLOOMY ACCOUNTS continue to be received of the condition of the Lancashire cotton-manufacturing districts. A large number of mills are wholly or partially idle, the employers in many cases are becoming embarrassed, and the operatives are reduced to distress by the prolonged absence of work.

MR. CHARLES REED, M.P., has written to Mr. S. Morley, M.P., the treasurer of a fund which is being raised for the payment of Mr. Reed's election expenses, requesting that the effort should not be proceeded with.

DREADFUL NEWS IS REPORTED FROM CHILI. The Indians have perpetrated great atrocities over a wide extent of country, in retaliation for similar outrages which had been inflicted upon them by the Chilean army.

BAVARIA has just suppressed the monopoly of salt, with a view to the interest of agriculture.

THE REMAINS OF JOHN WILKES BOOTH, the assassin of President Lincoln, were removed on the 15th ult. from Washington to Baltimore, having been given up by the United States Government to the relatives of the deceased.

A ROBBERY of a most extensive nature was committed on Tuesday evening, at the residence of Mr. Cohen, in Park-lane, jewellery of the value of £5000 having been carried off by the thieves, who it is believed effected an entrance to the premises by climbing over the portico.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY raised the fares on the London Bridge and Charing-cross portion of their line from 25 to 50 per cent, the third-class tickets being raised from 2d. to 3d. The fares between Cannon-street and Waterloo are raised, but not those between Waterloo and Charing-cross.

BERRYER'S SISTER, the Duchess Riario Strozzi, aged eighty-four, is said to be lying at the point of death, at her residence, Rue Royale, Paris.

THE SCULPTOR WICHMANN, of Munich, has just finished the model of a statue in bronze of Goethe, which is to be inaugurated in that city on Aug. 28.

TWO SMALL GREEK VESSELS, bound from Paxos to Corfu, with marble and Indian corn, were fallen in with during the night of Feb. 12, four miles off Murto, by two craft, each manned by six men, who towed the Greek vessels into a neighbouring creek, and plundered the crews and passengers of all their money and then left them.

MR. VERNON HARCOURT, Q.C., and M.P. for the city of Oxford, was on Tuesday elected to the professorship of International Law, founded at Cambridge by the late Dr. Whewell. Professor Vernon Harcourt was formerly a scholar of Trinity, and took a first class in classics in 1851.

THE THIRD INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION, organised and promoted by the working classes of South London, was opened, on Monday, at the Lambeth Baths. Mr. S. Morley, M.P., presided; Mr. Goschen delivered the "inaugural address;" and the Lord Mayor; Mr. Layard, M.P.; Mr. C. W. Dilke, M.P.; and Mr. Locke, M.P., also spoke.

SEVEN CASES OF ILLNESS caused by eating pork affected with trichina spiralis have occurred in New York city, two of them proving fatal. This reappearance of the dreaded disease has caused some alarm.

MR. EDMUND LOCKYER, one of the candidates at the recent election for the Wick Boroughs, was, on Monday, tried before the Edinburgh High Court of Justiciary, on the charge of intercepting and opening letters addressed to Miss Sinclair, Edinburgh. Holmes, a letter-carrier, was also included in the same indictment. Evidence was taken at great length in support of the prosecution. Both prisoners were found guilty; Lockyer was sentenced to twelve months', and Holmes to nine months' imprisonment.

MR. ANKETELL, station master of the Midland Great Western Railway at Mullingar, while standing at his own door was fired at and seriously wounded on Wednesday night. No hopes are entertained of his recovery. A man named Moran has been arrested. No cause is assigned for the outrage. The assassin fired from a garden-wicket. Eight bullets entered the wall behind the door of the house.

A COUNCIL OF THE CENTRAL CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE was held on Tuesday, at the Salisbury Hotel, under the presidency of Mr. Read, the member for Norfolk. Resolutions were carried expressive of the desirability of the establishment of a separate department of agriculture, presided over by a permanent officer, and of the necessity for a consolidated act to prevent the introduction of foreign diseases among cattle.

THE PROPOSED PROCEEDINGS in the Court of Arches against the Rev. W. J. E. Bennett, the Vicar of Frome, are, it is rumoured, likely to break down, in consequence of an indisposition to allow them to go on on the part of the new Bishop of London. The proceedings, it will be remembered, were commenced by Dr. Tait when Bishop of London, in obedience to a mandamus from the Court of Queen's Bench, but this mandamus is not legally binding upon Bishop Jackson, who is said to be anxious to have nothing to do with the matter.

NEARLY THREE YEARS AGO some burglars at Manchester managed to enter the Post Office, and to carry off about £10,000 worth of stamps. Of this £8000 has been recovered, to which nearly £400 more must now be added by the capture of a man in Little Moorfields. He was brought up at Guildhall on Monday, and the stamps found in his possession having been identified, the prisoner was remanded for the production of some formal evidence.

THE LOUNGER.

THE effect of Gladstone's speech seems to be this: The Conservatives are dismayed. They fancied, and hoped, that a satisfactory, or even partially satisfactory, settlement of all the complicated, perplexing questions which would turn up when the Cabinet came to plan a scheme for disendowment, would prove utterly unattainable. But they now fear that the Ministerial scheme will pass muster. That bonnebouche to the landed proprietors, I mean the liberty to redeem the tithe-charge upon the land at only twenty-two years' purchase, with loans from the Government to be repaid by instalments, is a terrible affliction to the Conservative mind; and it certainly is a trump card. When it comes to be considered and weighed, I am persuaded that the landlords' zeal for the Irish Church will, like Bob Acres's valour, begin to ooze out at the palms of their hands. The Ministerial whips are very sanguine about the division for the second reading. They seem to be sure of a majority of over 100, and hope to get 130. No doubt, there will be a prolonged fight in Committee upon the clauses. But the feeling of the Liberal party is not to hamper and hinder the progress of the bill by proposing amendments, but to be ready to stand by the Government in resisting all amendments, however specious, coming from the Opposition. The application of the balance will, of course, be severely handled by the Opposition; but, as far as I can gather, the Liberals will offer no objection. Indeed, the Government supporters do not seem to care how the balance is applied, so long as no religious body gets it. You may throw it in the sea, if we can but get the bill through.

If the House of Commons should send the bill up to the Lords with a hundred majority at its back, will their Lordships throw it out? Surely they will not have the audacity to do this. I do not think that the Primate of England would advise such a course; nor Lord Cranbourne. But Lord Cairns may; for he is an Orangeman, and, moreover, has but little landed property in Ireland, and cannot feel the force of the temptation presented to landed proprietors. But, though he is the leader of the Opposition in the House, he has no personal influence. Of course, Lord Derby will be consulted, and his advice will probably determine the course of policy, and what he will recommend it is impossible to guess. One rumour is that the Lords will not oppose the second reading, but will very much alter the bill in Committee; that the Commons will not accept the amendments; and that the Lords will eventually refuse to budge. In that case, you know, the bill will be lost. But I can hardly think that they will be prepared to reject so serious a crisis as would come if they were to reject the bill. The crisis would be almost as serious as that which we had when the Lords threw out Earl Grey's Reform Bill in 1832. Surely the Lords will remember what came of their obstinacy then, and learn wisdom. Mr. Gladstone hopes to get his bill passed and sent to the Lords by June 1. In such case the Lords cannot say that they have no time to consider it. They will have eleven weeks, and then be away for the grouse on Aug. 7. Of course, whatever may happen, there will be no dissolution, as the question of the abolition of the Irish Church has already been submitted to the country, and answered in the way we know. There is a faint rumour that the Archbishop of Canterbury is already thinking of advising the Bishops not to vote. There is no authority for this rumour; but it would be quite consistent with his Grace's character and conduct if he were to give such advice. He is a very wise man, and, one would think, hardly likely to counsel the Episcopal Bench to incur popular odium by fighting a battle with the House of Commons—a battle which he must see will ultimately result in utter defeat.

I see by a paragraph in the newspapers that a donkey has been fattened, killed, and distributed in joints to the various college kitchens at Cambridge University. I do not wish to make any unpleasant insinuation, but is not this a rather hazardous experiment? If the popular notion be correct that people are apt to develop tendencies characteristic of the animals on whose flesh they feed, may we not fear that if donkey-eating be persisted in at Cambridge, future generations of professors and pupils of that learned institution will be apt to become distinguished by assinine qualities?—"even to a greater degree than they are at present," a cynical friend beside me adds.

More books of reference about the great ones of the land! Here is Dod with his "Peerage, Baronetage, and Knightage," one great recommendation of which, besides many other merits, is that all three divisions are comprised in one volume, which is therefore very convenient. Here, also, are Dod's "Parliamentary Companion," and those handy little books, Hardwicke's "Shilling Peerage," "Shilling Baronetage," "Shilling Knightage," and "Shilling House of Commons." Of the utility of these four last-named volumes it is unnecessary to say anything; their merits are well known. As for the "Parliamentary Companion," the alterations that have been required in almost every part of it, owing to the recent election, entitle it, from the care with which they have been made, to special mention. As the editor reminds us, 227 persons who had no seat in the House of Commons at the period of its dissolution have been returned to the new Parliament. This little book brings me in the order of subjects to a work which, in point of size and importance, might properly have claimed earlier mention—"Debrett's Illustrated House of Commons and the Judicial Bench," for 1859. This work, it will be remembered (it is also an annual) is embellished with the coats of arms and the crests of the persons mentioned in it, and it has this good guarantee for its fidelity, that it has been personally revised by the members of Parliament and the Judges. This gives a special value to its record of professions of political faith, and entitles it to rank among the best works of reference of the kind. With those books at hand, no one need be at a loss to know all about everybody in the noble, the fashionable, and the political worlds.

I see it is stated in the German papers that the King of Württemberg, who is an accomplished musical amateur, has conferred on Mr. Costa the Royal order of "Frederick," as a mark of the admiration entertained by his Majesty for the oratorio of "Eli," performed under the composer's direction at Stuttgart last November. This work will be repeated on Palm Sunday, conducted by Herr Abert, the director of the Royal Opera House; and in the autumn Mr. Costa's second oratorio, "Naaman," will be produced for the first time in Germany.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

One of the first things that happened to catch my eye in the magazines this month is a curious example, in *Household Words* (reprinted), in an article on "Dreams." It is a fine example of what may be called the purely metaphysical treatment of a mixed subject. The writer of it makes some absurd blunders. He says we never lose our conscious identity in our dreams—which is untrue, for we do. He says we never dream we are younger than we really are—which is untrue, for we do. He says that, though some have pretended that men do in sleep wrong things which they would not do awake, he can never believe that even in dreams a man can lose his "moral identity" (whatever that is). This is the most ridiculous blunder of all. Shakespeare knew human nature—and what does he make Banquo say, on going to bed?

Merciful powers!
Restrain in me the cursed thoughts that Nature
Gives way to in repose!

But we do not need to go to Shakespeare for a fact which is notorious. These fine-spun mistakes come of pursuing the pure *a priori* method in dealing with mixed questions. If the writer had understood a little physiology, and "questioned nature," he would not have made such a fool of himself.

Macmillan, I am glad to see, is out early this month; but I must postpone a word about two of the papers (in a particularly good number) till I have made a reference to a book which does not happen to be handy.

In the *Cornhill* Mr. Charles Reade commences his new story, "Put Yourself in His Place." That also I must postpone.

Once a Week contains some capital papers. That on "Exaggeration in Art" is excellent, and contains something worth the attention of amateur actors, who are, as far as my knowledge of them goes, a very conceited race, and with no knowledge of the first principle of the art, which may be called selective exaggeration. There is another good essay on the Romance of Railways; but, though it is good, it, after all, evades the point it seems to grapple with.

In *Belgravia* Mr. G. A. Sala, in one of his happiest veins, deals with a matter which has recently been brought into unnecessary and (I think) mischievous prominence. My own recollections of the stage go back no farther than the "Bohemian Girl," at the first production of which I was present. I can say nothing of the dress of Madame Vestris in certain pieces produced at the old Olympic; but I have heard things about it which compel me to think that there is some mistake in all this recent pottering. Does Mr. Sala know the evidence given by Mr. Horace Wigan two or three years ago, about, among other matters, the "dress" in which Taglioni came out of the (stage) bath, in (I think) "La Circassienne"? My own opinion of the matter is that there is no real degradation of dress in the case, but that there is simply more in quantity of a particular kind of entertainment. I perfectly remember the gipsy dance in the "Bohemian Girl," and am quite sure I have seen of late no dresses more abbreviated than those of the ladies on that occasion. Those who know, as you and I do, Sir, how a topic, once started, will run like wildfire through the press—how eagerly, in fact, magazinists catch at a new idea and "work" it—will not lay much stress upon this praise of the past at the expense of the present. I most vividly remember one of the very ladies, mentioned as models by Mr. Sala, in a dance, in which the abandon of the movement and the brevity of the skirt fully equalled, if they did not exceed, anything I have witnessed since. It was in "La Tarantula," in the Dagger Dance. "My Enemy's Daughter" is as good as ever, but it is injured by contact with the peculiar style of picture that you always get in *Belgravia*.

The *Broadway* distinguishes itself by two very able papers. One by Mr. W. M. Rossetti, on Ruskin as a Writer on Art; and one by "A Woman" on "Tact and Temper." Both these papers have my warmest praise. The last will find most readers, and I hope it will do good. It is, in brief, a protest against the detestable "managing" system by which some wives are supposed to regulate their relations with their husbands. The husband that can be "managed" is a muff, and worse; the wife that tries to "manage" a husband, instead of being honest with him, is a treacherous hussy, good for nothing but to be severely let alone. Mr. Rossetti's essay is one of the finest of its order that I ever read.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The Shakespearean performances at DRURY LANE are now prefaced by a slight—a very slight—musical burletta, by Mr. F. C. Burnand, called "Girls of the Period." It is evidently intended simply as an apology for the introduction of the pantomime ballet of "Girls of the Period," and, as it achieves its object, it is to be presumed that it has done all that its author intended it to do. At the same time, it may be questioned whether the appearance of Mr. Barrett dressed as a woman and straddling across a velocipede is at all essential to the end in view. The piece is interspersed with musical selections; one of the most effective is an original song, by Mr. Burnand, called "Pretty Wilhelmina," intended apparently as a satire on the depraved taste for music-hall songs, which is supposed to be a special characteristic of the present day. The performances of "Macbeth" last week were invested with a special interest by the fact that Mrs. Howard Paul played the parts of Lady Macbeth and Hecate. Mrs. Paul's interpretation of the character of the Thane's resolute wife was, at least, free from the tiresome conventionalities of the stock tragedienne. She is deficient in physical power, and apparently had some difficulty in adapting her voice to the large theatre in which she was performing; but at the same time her performance was that of an educated, thoughtful lady, who had formed a vivid and highly intelligent estimate of the part she was playing. She appeared to give more prominence to the domestic side of Lady Macbeth's character than usual with the exponents of the part. Mr. Dillon's Macbeth has nothing, except a certain coarse vigour, to recommend it. His elocution is extremely faulty, and his pronunciation is marred by the very worst provincialism. An actor who, in the character of Macbeth, speaks of a "prosperous gentleman" and "Heaven's Cheryubini" deserves little attention at the hands of a cultivated audience. It is really disgraceful that, at our national theatre, our national poet should be so barbarously murdered night after night. Mr. Phelps is not a good elocutionist; but he is, at all events, an educated, thinking gentleman; and his performances, with all their faults, have much in them that an educated audience can appreciate; but, beyond physical vigour, Mr. Dillon has really no qualification whatever for the part he assumes. The scenery is disgraceful. There is hardly a scene in the piece which is not disguised by elaborate coats-of-arms!

A new and original drama, by Mr. T. W. Robertson, called "Dreams," is to be produced at the Gaiety at Easter. Mr. Wigan and Miss Robertson will sustain the principal parts. The piece has lately been produced at Liverpool with success, Mr. Bandmann and Miss Milly Palmer appearing in the leading characters.

Dr. Westland Martston's "Life for a Life" is to be played at the LYCEUM to-night (Saturday). Miss Neilson, Mr. Hermann Vezin, and Mr. Coghlan, have been engaged.

Mr. Byron is engaged on a new drama for the GLOBE, in which Miss Lydia Foote will appear.

At Easter Mr. Bayle Bernard's version of "Les Misérables," called "A Man of Two Lives," will be played at DRURY LANE.

The clever little girl, Lydia Howard, now playing at the PRINCESS'S, is, it seems, the only "baby actress" of that name. This statement is called for by the fact that I erroneously described her as one of two "juvenile prodigies" of the same name.

MR. E. W. EDWARDS, the official assignee in bankruptcy in the court of Commissioners Holroyd, has been dismissed from his post. An order to this effect was on Tuesday received from the Lord Chancellor, who stated that he felt compelled to take the step in consideration of Mr. Edwards having deliberately violated the 8th section of the Act of 1861, whereby official assignees are forbidden to hold any other office or to follow any business on pain of dismissal.

YANKEE CONSISTENCY.—If the American people ever studied historical parallels, they would perceive something almost comic in the attitude they assume towards England with reference to her concession of belligerent rights to the South, and their own eagerness to uphold the standard of rebellion wherever it happens to be unfurled. The Poles, the Hungarians, the Sepoys, all have evoked the deep sympathies of the Americans in their turn. If a man declares himself a "rebel," he has at once established an indisputable claim to American friendship. Directly the Cretan insurrection broke out the Americans sent private supplies of stores and money to Crete. Now the insurgents in Cuba are patted on the back. In this case the applause is perhaps not altogether suggested by disinterested motives. But before the rebellion can be said to have gained a firm footing, before the insurgents have even attempted to construct a government, or have occupied an important town, the House of Representatives at Washington passes "a resolution of sympathy" with them. The President is at the same time requested to recognise the independence of Cuba at the earliest possible moment. We are quite aware that this resolution has no binding power; but it is a deliberate expression of the opinion and feeling of one branch of the Legislature. Our own House of Commons never went so far throughout the war between North and South. The Americans say to the world, "We shall encourage and support rebellion against established Powers wherever we find it, and simply because it is rebellion; but we never will forgive people who sympathised with the rebellion we lately had among ourselves." They set up a standard of conduct of their own, but deny any freedom whatever, even freedom of opinion, to others. Did it occur to any member of Congress that the groundlessness of American animosity towards England on the score of the late rebellion is proved by the example which America herself is always setting to the world? But the Spanish people are not likely to complain in a troublesome manner, and that makes all the difference.—*Full Mail Gazette*.

OBITUARY.

VISCOUNT GOUGH.—Field Marshal Viscount Gough, K.P., G.C.B., died on Tuesday morning, at his residence, St. Helen's, near Dublin. He had enjoyed comparatively good health until within the past fortnight. His Lordship, who was a Colonel in the Royal Horse Guards and in the 60th Rifles, was the fourth son of the late Mr. George Gough, of Woodstown, Limerick, and was born Nov. 3, 1779. In 1791 he entered the Army, and served at the capture of the Cape of Good Hope, and of the Dutch fleet in Saldanha Bay in the following year. He afterwards served in the West Indies, at the attack on Porto Rico, in the brigand war of St. Lucia, and at the capture of Surinam. In 1809 he proceeded to the Peninsula, and commanded the 87th at the battles of Talavera, Barossa, Vittoria, and Nivelle, for which engagements he received a decoration. He was also at the sieges of Cadiz and Tarifa, where he was wounded in the head. At Barossa his men captured the eagle of the 5th French regiment, and at Vittoria they secured the baton of Marshal Jourdan. At Nivelle he was again severely wounded. He commanded the land force at the attack on Canton, for which he was made a G.C.B., and for his services in China in 1841 and 1842 Sir Robert Peel made him a Baronet. He next fought against the Marhattas, and at one engagement captured fifty-six guns. In 1845 and 1846 the army under his command defeated the Sikhs at Moodkee, Ferozeshah, and Soobraon, and for these services he received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament, and was raised to the Peerage. The last desperate struggle with the Sikhs was in 1848 and 1849, and then Lord Gough literally stamped out the enemy at a great expenditure of life. In the latter year he was advanced to a Viscounty, and received two pensions of £2000 each—one from the East India Company, and the other from Parliament for three lives. He was married, in 1807, to Frances Maria, daughter of Lieutenant-General E. Stephens; and is succeeded in the Peerage by his son, the Hon. George Stephens Gough, who was born in 1816, and has been twice married.

M. LAMARTINE.—The illustrious M. Alphonse de Lamartine, poet, historian, and statesman, died on Sunday—an event which was the subject of many expressions of sorrow in Monday's sitting of the Corps Législatif, and which has been quickly followed by the opening of a public subscription to erect a statue in his honour. It cannot be said that M. de Lamartine's death was either unexpected or premature, for he has been in a declining state of health for many months past, and he attained his seventy-eighth year on Oct. 21, 1868. His career was a remarkable one, and several of its more romantic passages are interwoven with the history of his country. At an early age he changed his own surname for that of his maternal uncle, from whom he inherited a fortune. After the revolutionary troubles, in the midst of which he was born, had subsided, and while the First Napoleon was in the zenith of his power, he completed his education at the College of the Pères de la Foi at Belley. Subsequently he visited Italy more than once; and, on the restoration of the Bourbons, espoused the Royalist cause. When he was thirty years of age, he suddenly acquired fame by the publication of his "Méditations Poétiques," and, attracting the notice of Louis XVIII., in whose body-guard, if we mistake not, he had served, he was invited to enter upon a diplomatic career. For five years he was an attaché to the Embassy at Florence, which position, in 1825, he exchanged for that of Secretary of Legation at London. Here he met Miss Birch, the lady whom he married, and who died so recently as 1863. This estimable lady proved in every respect a fit match for the poet, and, besides graces of mind and person, brought him a considerable fortune. His diplomatic career was renewed at Florence, in the capacity of Chargé d'Affaires, an office which he was appointed to fill in the year 1829, about which time he published the collection of "Harmonies Poétiques et Religieuses," and was elected a member of the French Academy. He was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of Athens, but, resigned on the accession of Louis Philippe to the throne, and, being disappointed of a seat in the Senate, undertook his celebrated tour to the East, where he made the acquaintance of that extraordinary personage, Lady Hester Stanhope. It was in 1835 that he published his "Voyage en Orient," many editions of which have been published in this country. His return from the East was quickened by his election to the French Chambers for the Department du Nord; but in the hour of his triumph he keenly felt the death of his eldest daughter, who succumbed during his tour to an attack of illness. In the Legislature he rapidly achieved a distinguished position as an orator and as an advocate of Liberal opinions; and at the same time he gained fresh renown as a poet, and also by the production of several tales, which, under the thinnest guise of fiction, were elaborate and highly-wrought autobiographical sketches. It was not until the eve of the Revolution of 1848 that he published the first volumes of his great work, the "Histoire des Girondins." The splendid part he took both in the events which preceded the overthrow of Louis Philippe, and in the stirring drama of the Revolution itself, will still be fresh in the public recollection; and the marvellous eloquence and almost superhuman courage with which, speaking from the balcony of the Hôtel de Ville, he subdued the passions of a tumultuous mob, and at once saved both order and liberty, will not be forgotten by the historian. He was the leading member of the Provisional Government, and, as Minister for Foreign Affairs, won the respect of Europe. His popularity, however, soon waned, and the events of June hurled him from power, and rendered his candidature for the Presidency a singular illustration of the mutability of fortune. Since the coup d'état he abandoned politics and lived in comparative retirement, sometimes at Passy, but more generally at Magon, where from time to time he received many visitors. His declining years have unfortunately been embittered by pecuniary misfortunes, and more than once he has been placed in circumstances not less humiliating to genius than they were productive of reflections which were far from considerate or generous. The *Débats*, in an article upon Lamartine, mentions two facts in connection with his life which, it says, are but little known. His pecuniary embarrassments being no secret, the post of President of the Senate, now vacant by the death of M. Troplong, was offered to him and the emoluments of the office, although far from inconsiderable, would have been doubled, in order that he might rid himself of those embarrassments. He declined the appointment, however, and then an unconditional offer was made to free him from his debts. This he also declined. "His honour," says the *Débats*, "had shrunk from the dignity, his delicacy made him also refuse the honourable offer." It seems that for the last year he had not put pen to paper, and for several months past had scarcely spoken. Age and suffering had thoroughly worn him out.

M. TROPLONG.—The death is also announced from Paris of M. Troplong, the President of the French Senate, who has for some days been in a very critical state. M. Troplong early in life obtained distinction and advancement by his legal writings, and succeeded in keeping on good terms with the various Governments which have ruled France during the last thirty years. With that of the present Emperor he was an especial favourite. M. Troplong was born in 1795, and was thus seventy-four years of age at the time of his death.

LORD WYNFORD.—The death is announced of Lord Wynford, in his seventy-first year. His Lordship was educated at Brasenose College, Oxford, was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1823, and unsuccessfully contested Barnstaple in 1837. He is succeeded in the peerage by his son, the Hon. William Draper Mortimer Best, who was born in 1826, and was for some years in the Rifle Brigade.

MAJOR C. F. SANDHAM.—Major Charles Freeman Sandham, late of the Royal Artillery, died recently, in his eighty-sixth year. He served in the campaign of 1799 in Holland; afterwards in the expedition to Copenhagen, in 1807; was present at the retreat from Corunna; served in the expedition to Walcheren, in 1809; in the campaign in Holland in 1814; and in Flanders and France in 1815, including the Battle of Waterloo.

Literature.

Krifof and his Fables. By W. R. S. RALSTON, M.A., of the British Museum. London: Strahan and Co.

A volume of original fables is a novelty and a treasure in the English literary market. The regular round of *Æsop*, *La Fontaine*, and *Gay* has been thoroughly well trodden, and the similarity between the three writers is rather tiring. Leaving the first of the three alone in safety, it may be incidentally remarked that *Gay* is flat as Shrove Tuesday refreshment compared to the admirable ease and variety of *Fontaine's* versification. The English have not flourished in this branch of literature, although the occasional fable is to be found in many of our most eminent authors. Prior saw, as lovers say, "his fondest hopes realised" by the production of the "Town and Country Mouse," and perhaps *Thackeray* could not help ridiculing that production in his "Lectures" when he thought upon his own admirable "King of Brentford"—a fable on a fable—and as fine and polished a piece of satire and humour as the present age can show. But a fabulist proper we have not. Therefore, best thanks to Mr. Ralston for the welcome translation of *Krifof*. The Russian writer has done much; but by his fables he is best known, and for them he is thoroughly loved. And no wonder. He is—almost as a matter of course—always on the side of humanity; and, without being frightened by the old bugbear about Russia, or its social horrors, it is not too much to say that in *Krifof's* time it was not altogether a safe position to take up the cause of the people against aristocracy and place-holders. We think of Burns, and of *Béranger*, and of the troubled times through which they went. But *Krifof*, with all his dangerous satire, was luckier than they. The Emperor Nicholas once embraced him! The present volume contains an interesting memoir of the author, who appears to have been a fair specimen of that genius which is nothing without being eccentric. Of that genius perhaps a rather dirty specimen—the hero of "Sartor Resartus" being nothing to it. And yet in the ways of life he seems to have been strongly like Goldsmith and to have had much that reminds us of our late and lamented friend *Father Prout*. And yet (again), although he held a lucrative appointment under the Crown, he fairly broke away from good society in favour of something lower of his own choosing; or, when he did affect the society of the great, he was so careless about costume as to leave the tailor's silver paper on the buttons of the new coat! These biographical pages are interesting, and new to almost all readers; whilst the fables themselves are only known through specimens by Mr. Sutherland Edwards and one or two others. Mr. Ralston has preferred to give a fair literal translation in prose to any imitation of their original verse. They are political, social, and of the old-established kinds. But they are all new, and deeply coloured in Russian all through. The wolf turns up as frequently as the ass or the goose in English satirical remarks. The characteristics of the people come in pleasantly enough; and, with the assistance of some explanation supplied here and there by Mr. Ralston, it is easy to see that the castigation is soundly administered and richly deserved. *Krifof*—whose years date from 1768 to 1841—had a different state of things to satirise to the present; and he did not miss his chance. We copy one of these fables, suitably short to our purpose; but it does not happen to have the political or social characteristics mentioned.

THE ELEPHANT IN FAVOUR.

Once upon a time the Elephant stood high in the good graces of the Lion. The forest immediately began to talk about the matter, and, as usual, many guesses were made as to the means by which the Elephant had gained such favour.

"It is no beauty," say the beasts to each other; "and it is not amusing. And what habits it has! what manners!"

Says the Fox, whisking about his brush, "If it had possessed such a bushy tail as mine, I should not have wondered."

"Or, Sister," says the Bear, "if it had got into favour on account of claws, no one would have found the matter at all extraordinary; but it has no claws at all, as we all know well."

"Isn't it its tusks which have got it into favour?" thus the Ox broke in upon their conversation. "Haven't they, perhaps, been mistaken for horns?"

"Is it possible," said the Ass, shaking its ears, "that you don't know how it has succeeded in making itself liked, and becoming distinguished? Why, I have guessed the reason. If it hadn't been distinguished for its long ears, it never would have got into favour."

The last idea, by-the-way, suggests Mr. Hannay's remark about the personal qualities of courtiers and toadies; that "the monkey's faculty of swinging in high places is simply the result of his prehensile tail."

In leaving this curious and clever volume, we have to acknowledge the merits of several people—all with initials—who have executed some admirable woodcuts. They seem to be instinct with the strange life which they illustrate.

The Bab Ballads. By W. S. GILBERT. With Illustrations by the Author. London: J. C. Hotten, 1869.

Mr. Gilbert has added to the short and sufficient title which we have quoted the sub-title, intended to be explanatory, of "Much Sound and Little Sense." But the little woodcut on the titlepage of the baby at the piano was quite enough to suggest the true significance of the word "Bab," and the preface and under-title might have been better omitted.

Here our fault-finding ends. We cordially praise and cordially recommend the "Bab Ballads," as a book which can be read a good many times and enjoyed over again, both in its verse and in its pictures. This is praise of a kind which might hardly be supposed applicable to a volume of such slight pretensions; but it is one of the most striking peculiarities of Mr. W. S. Gilbert's verse that you can relish it after repeated perusal. How this happens is more than we can decisively say, though we have spent some thought upon the subject; for more utter nonsense, more unmeaning nonsense, never trickled from human pen than the bulk of the "Bab Ballads." The author's poetry (for some of the writing, senseless as it is, deserves the name) is more a flux than anything else. It reads like utterly unconscious, mechanical, barrel-organ rubbish. And yet it is pleasing, and leaves echoes in the memory. Indeed, the mere versification is perfect. Somewhere about here lies the secret of the pleasure one derives from these ballads. First, there is a peculiar fascination in following the author in his sensation headers of absurdity; in watching him, as, with a perfect artistic abandonment (in the absence of which the work would be a blunder), he yet emerges, a clear-headed, sane, yet unconscious fool, from insanities which lead to nothing; and, secondly, the jingle of the bells on his cap is perfect in its artless art. If even this became for a minute self-conscious, if it were clever or studied, if it ever bogged at mutilating a word, if it ever went too far in mutilating words—indeed, if it were not a flux, the effect would be spoiled. So far, then, as the secret of Mr. W. S. Gilbert's humour can be stated it lies in the abandonment of absurdity, exhibited in a vehicle of verse which exhibits a similar abandonment. We do not know how the author's MSS. show, but we are quite sure these ballads cost some labour. The author's little illustrations are gems in their way. They are strikingly free from any of the qualities which are kindred to ill-nature. Some of them are highly humorous. The two farmers on page 134, the argumentative peer on page 132, the sugar-broker, Baines Carew and the canary-bird-looking captain, the three sleeping figures on page 83, and the rival Curates, please us best. Of the ballads we prefer "The Rival Curates," "The Yarn of the Nancy Bell," "The Bishop of Rumbly-foo" (in which there is a deeper vein of sense than in most of the others), "Baines Carew" (most admirable), "The Discontented Sugar-Broker" (a capital study of the author's trick), "Thomas on Green and Harriet Hale," and "Gentle Alice Brown," (which, also, has an undercurrent of sense); though why Mr. H. Neville should be drawn on page 222 is not so plain to us (probably from our ignorance) as the reason for drawing Mr. Phelps on page 118.

Altogether, though we had seen some of the ballads before, we have much enjoyed the book, and can warmly commend it to our readers.

Cast Up by the Sea. By Sir SAMUEL W. BAKER, M.A., F.R.G.S., &c. With Illustrations by Huard. London: Macmillan and Co.

It appears that the bays of England have been making a dead set at Sir Samuel Baker by sending him letters expressive of admiration for his "Nile Tributaries of Africa," &c. And, determining to make them some especial return for their enthusiasm, he has written this story of travel and adventure, which is a mixture of fact, fiction founded on fact, and of what might reasonably have been true; and to "all boys, from eight years old to eighty," this "Cast up by the Sea" is dedicated. It is a capital book, containing far more story than we care to describe, and precisely of that kind which is so delightful to youth; and if the "boys of eighty" should take a fancy to it as well, there will be no ground for astonishment. Indeed, it will carry them back to the days of their youth, and recall many a reminiscence of the sea-life of those stirring days, of what they had to do with it, or of what they thought about it.

Despite a little confusion of dates, the story may be said to commence in the year 1791; the spot, Sandy Cove, on the coast of Cornwall, the smallest possible inlet for a vessel from the Atlantic waves, and clever and fortunate must the vessel be to effect a safe entrance without assistance from the shore. The twenty huts composing the village are inhabited entirely by—there is no doubt about it—smugglers and wreckers to a man. And, according to the feeling of the times, such modes of getting on in this world are looked upon as purely honourable, and the people seem fairly to do their duty in the station to which they think themselves called. The story begins with a glowing description of a wreck, from which only one life is saved—namely, an infant boy, who, however, is not without gold and jewels which may some day lead to his identification. The body of a beautiful lady is washed ashore, and reverently buried. This infant falls into the charge of Paul Grey and his wife, Polly—respectively of the brave and beautiful stamp—and their interest in it is fully shared by Captain Smart, of the coastguard, a friend from boyhood of Paul and former lover of Polly, and by Dr. Jones, the local parson and schoolmaster. Ned Grey, as they call him, soon develops into a handsome and splendid young fellow; for, by the time he is some twelve or fourteen, he has had many a turn in smuggling (despite Captain Smart and the revenue-cutter, which is no match for Paul's lugger, the Polly); and moreover he is, once and for all, the devoted lover of Miss Edith Jones, who is quite as precocious as he is. This happy state of things is soon interrupted, and here the real business of the book begins. Ned Grey falls in with a press-gang, and is speedily carried on board the Sybille, together with Tim, a negro boy whom he has saved from a wreck, and Edith's fine Newfoundland dog Nero, an animal of rather more than human tact and sensibility. Ned takes kindly to the new state of things, and becomes a general favourite, thus contrasting well with Jem Stevens, a midshipman, an old enemy of Ned and lover of Edith, having been at the same school, from which he had been expelled. The Sybille captures La Forte, as all readers of naval history know, and the youngsters, coming home in the prize, are wrecked. Jem wilfully prevents Ned from getting into the only boat, so Ned, Tim, and the dog make the best of it, and reach the African coast. They, luckily, have plenty of weapons, with powder and shot, nautical instruments, &c., and so in the long-run they get on well with savages, hostile and friendly, the fights being grand and full of bloodshed, the escapes hair-breadth, and the hunting excursions most prosperous. Finally, after eight years' absence, they reach Sandy Cove once more; and the story is soon over. Ned is charged with murder, for Parson Jones had been shot dead the night before his mysterious disappearance; but the real murderer gives himself up and dies, and Ned finds in Judge Neville who tries him none other than his own father. The rest is easy guessing; but Jem Stevens, now a magistrate, tampers with the law, and hangs himself.

There is plenty of story, or plot, but this outline is quite sufficient. The African adventures are excellent, at once interesting and amusing, and highly graphic in the sporting passages. Sir Samuel Baker has written one of the best books of this kind we ever met with. It is very handsome in appearance, and the ten illustrations by Huard are all spirited and stirring in interest.

How to Sing an English Ballad. By ELIZABETH PHILIP. Including Sixty Songs by Eminent Authors. London: Tinsley Brothers.

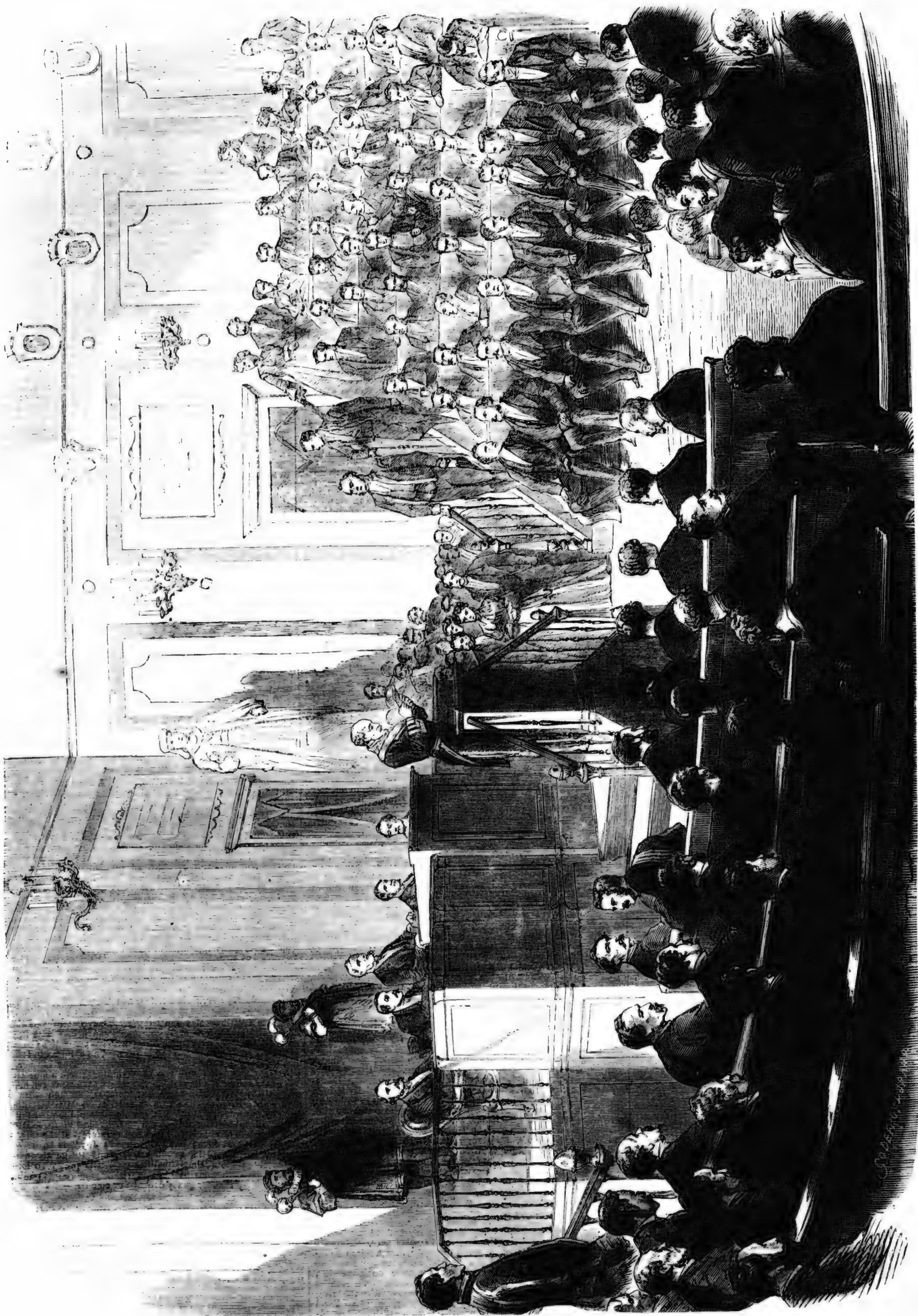
This is a good little book, although there is a terrible amount of the puffing element in it. Some pages of quoted criticism are sufficient to assure the world that Miss Philip is a brilliant composer; and we are certain she knows more about poetry in its relation to music than most of the composers do. She wishes her readers to know how beautiful an English ballad is. Is not the "Last Rose of Summer" the piece in "Martha"? She enjoins those who are going to sing to study the poetry, so as to insure that emphasis which insures the meaning. She pays a tribute of admiration to Mr. Browning, and calls him intelligible, which he is, though not very often suited to music, because he carries all the music that he wants with him. Miss Philip's hints to singing-birds may tend to make many London cages musical which are now occasionally unendurable; and the volume contains the "words" of sixty songs suited for various voices, written by Miss Philip. This is a gorgeous style of advertisement, which, like Lord Chesterfield's view of hunting, is very nice—once.

Childhood's Joy: or, To be Good is to be Happy. By AUNT CLARA, Author of "Ramblings at Sunnyside." London: W. W. Gardner.

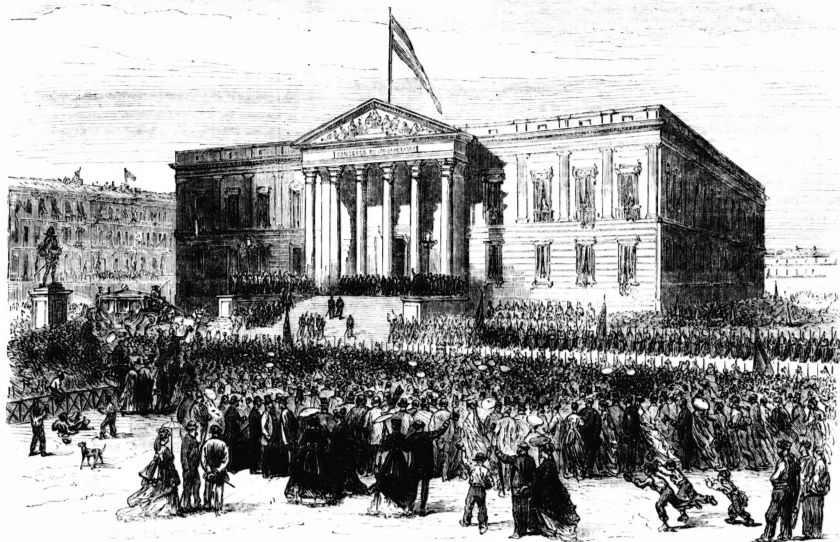
Too late for Christmas and the New Year, but in good time for those birthdays which every morning's sun brings with it, comes an excellent little book for children, who cannot fail to be all the better for reading it or hearing it read. The children in it are delicious—they are so naughty. They treat the baby-brother, the young girls, as if he were one of their dolls; and a nice time he has of it, and rather likes it, on the whole. "There is no mamma, and papa is very good-natured, but 'proper' enough when occasion calls. He places the utmost reliance on Miss Melville, the friendly governess, and she and her amiable old mother tell good stories of interesting instruction to Lucy and Florence Denison. Other matters of vital importance to the interest of the story shall not be divulged here; but "Childhood's Joy" is to be recommended for its plain, sensible style, and its gently-indicated morality. Besides those qualifications, it is pretty to look at; amongst its attractions being some woodcuts more remarkable for simple beauty than for gaudy contrast of colour.

THE SMALL HOUSEHOLDER.—The draught of the Government measure to amend the law of rates assessed on occupiers for short terms provides that the occupier of any rateable hereditament who pays his rent in shorter periods than by quarterly instalments shall, as at present, be rated to the relief of the poor, but shall be entitled to deduct the amount of the rate from the rent due to the owner. The owner may, however, still compound for the payment of rates wherever such agreements may now be lawfully made; but the payment of the rate by the occupier is to be regarded as a qualification for the franchise. The bill prescribes the method of assessment and the manner in which the rate shall be collected.

THE BALLOT.—A meeting of the advocates of vote by ballot was held on Wednesday evening, at the Arundel Hall—Lord Campbell in the chair. Several members of the House of Commons were present, and there was a numerous attendance of the general public. Amongst the speakers who followed the chairman were Mr. Eykyn, M.P.; the Hon. G. Brodric; Mr. Stappleton, M.P.; the Hon. Auberon Herbert; and Mr. Munz, M.P. Reference was made to the encouraging circumstances under which the question of the ballot would be raised in the new Parliament; and there was a general feeling that every effort should be made to give Sir Henry Bulwer and Mr. Latham that amount of support and encouragement which the importance of the subject demands.



OPENING OF THE SPANISH CORTES: MARSHAL SERRANO READING THE ADDRESS OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.



RECEPTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AT THE PORTICO OF THE CORTES HALL, MADRID.

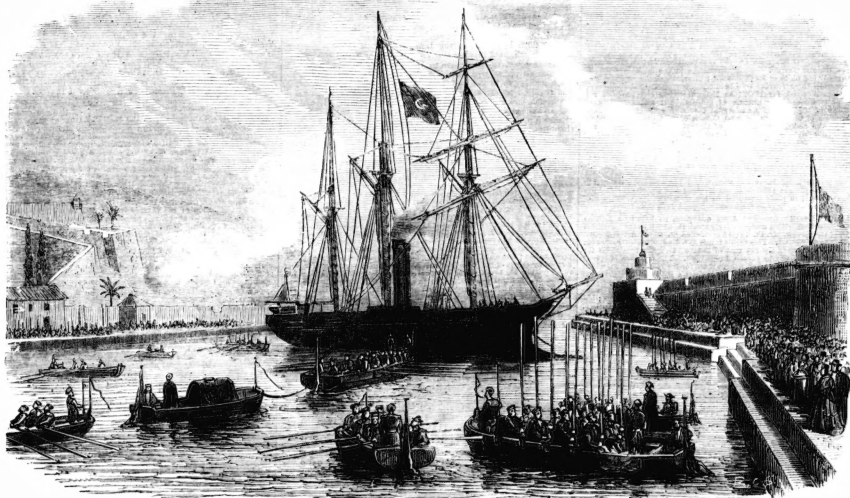
THE SPANISH CORTES.

We have in a previous Number given a description of the incidents connected with the opening of the Constituent Cortes of Spain, of which we this week publish a couple of illustrations. The proceedings in the Cortes last week were very interesting. A correspondent thus describes them:—"On Monday Don Rivera addressed the House in acknowledgment of his having been voted to the presidency. Then a letter was read, signed by Serrano, in his own name and that of the other members of the Provisional Government, resigning to the Cortes the authority they had been invested with by the Revolution, and which they had exercised since Oct. 8 last. Then came speeches from Serrano, Prim, and Topete. Serrano bore testimony to the harmony that had always existed in the Cabinet and the good-feeling constantly shown towards himself by all his companions, and he urged the Cortes to lose no time in constituting the Government.

Prim's remarks were more important. Alluding to the rumors constantly going about, he denied in toto that he had any ulterior intention of restoring the Prince of Asturias for the purpose of being himself Regent. He declared such was emphatically false. When Isabel II. left Spain, the Bourbon race had gone never to return. He (Prim) had no preconceived predilections in favour of any particular candidate to the throne. He only desired the good of the country and the will of the country. If the road was smooth, well; but if not, if rocks and precipices were to be encountered, he asked for himself and his two friends, Serrano and Topete, that they might be permitted to stand in the front, and to head the nation in its efforts towards liberty. He and Serrano had many years ago, when they witnessed the degradation of the country under the Bourbon yoke, sworn to each other on the point of their swords to devote their fortunes and their lives to her salvation. They had prepared the mine to

which the illustrious Topete had applied the match with such effect that only twelve days sufficed to overturn the Throne and to destroy the dynasty for ever. He referred to his anxious feelings when, at eleven at night on Sept. 17, he arrived in the Bay of Cadix, and went rowing about in the dark in search of the frigates, and the emotion he experienced when he found himself on the deck of the Zaragoza and was received by her brave Captain, Malcampo. From that moment he felt the cause was safe, and the next thing was the raising of the yards of the Zaragoza, Tetan, Villa de Madrid, and the other vessels with the brave sailors raising the cry of the Revolution.

Topete spoke feelingly and modestly. He said his profession was one which never produced creators, and he therefore excused himself from saying much. He alluded to the fact that he and the navy under his command had broken their oaths to Isabel, but not until Isabella had violated hers; and he asked vindication



FUNERAL OBSEQUIES OF FUAD PACHA AT NICE.

for the act, as one done for the salvation of the country. He mentioned the mental anxiety he had undergone before deciding on the step, and his hesitation arising from the consequences of failure, and also on account of the sex of the person who occupied the throne.

"These three speeches were repeatedly and vociferously applauded both during their delivery and when the speakers sat down. The scene was exciting. Every deputy was in his place in evening costume. The Diplomatic Gallery, the tribune of the Press, and the tribunes for the spectators were crammed. The streets all round the building were full of people trying to get in, and anxious to know what was passing. The 'tug of war' soon commenced. By the rules of the Cortes any proposal made in writing and signed by seven deputies must be submitted to the House. The first read was a resolution according to the thanks of the Cortes to the members of the Provisional Government for their conduct during the interregnum, and commissioning the deputy Don Francisco Serrano to form a new Ministry to exercise the executive power. Why these two important propositions, so totally distinct in themselves, should have been embodied in one, I know not. There were several deputies, to my knowledge, who approved of one but not of the other, and who, in consequence, refrained from voting at all. But this is a strange country, and they do strange things in it. The first Republican shot was an attempt to throw the resolution abruptly overboard, by a motion that it should not be taken into discussion at all; but this was overruled. Then the real assault began. The best orators of the Republican party—Orense, Castelar, Figueras, Pi y Margall, and others—were pitted against the best of the Monarchical side, including the Provisional Government themselves. Everything they had failed to do, was raked up against them, to prove them unworthy the confidence of the country and the vote of thanks. Their administrative and financial policy, their tinkering at the religious question, their colonial management, their electioneering manoeuvres, their monarchical predilections, their press persecutions—all were vehemently denounced. As I sat for the three days in the gallery, I heard charges enough against them to have appalled the stoutest heart, and, as Prim remarked on Wednesday night, it required something more than patience and patriotism combined to bear them. As during the three days we were regaled with nearly thirty speeches, some of them over two hours long, I shall not attempt to give you even a summary of them. The Government found warm and valuable defenders in some of the deputies, but of course the most important speeches were their own. In the course of the debate many noble sentiments were uttered on both sides, but at the same time many hard things were said. Charge and counter-charge, recrimination and retort, assertion and explanation, followed in rapid succession. At last, at two o'clock yesterday (Thursday) morning, they proceeded to the vote. It was taken orally. The resolution was carried by 180 to 62, as I telegraphed you at the time. Serrano made a short speech in acknowledgment of the vote of thanks, and for the honour done him in intrusting him with the formation of a new Ministry. He denied any other ambition than the settlement of the country, which effected, he desired to retire to his house, as he was tired of the responsibilities of government."

THE INTERNATIONAL YACHT-RACE.—Mr. Ashbury, the owner of the yacht *Cambria*, with which he has challenged all America to a race for the possession of the Queen's Cup, is still sanguine that the match will take place. Most of the difficulties that have been raised are of a minor character. The New York Yacht Club, which now holds the cup, has informed Mr. Ashbury that, as a club, it can only be challenged by another club, and not by an individual—except under certain conditions, which it is ready to accept rather than there should be no race. Mr. Ashbury will, however, be at no loss to find one of the many clubs to which he belongs willing to have the challenge issued in its name. The only serious difficulty relates to the differences in the English and American modes of measurement. By the former, Mr. Ashbury shows the *Dauntless* to be nearly double the size of his yacht, the *Cambria*, and therefore, as he conceives, no fair competitor with her in an ocean race. The Americans, on the other hand, say that by their system, or an equitable measurement, the *Dauntless* would be very little larger than the *Cambria*—namely, 246 to 222. The matter is still under discussion; but from the manner in which the New York Yacht Club has received the proposals of Mr. Ashbury there seems every prospect of a settlement.

CHURCH AND STATE IN JAMAICA.—The Jamaica Clergy Act expires at the end of this year. Shall it be renewed? Last year the payment out of the Consolidated Fund in aid of the clergy in the West Indies was stopped by the Conservative Government; for even they could not lend themselves to a continuance of so unjustifiable a charge upon the public revenues. Sir J. P. Grant, the new Governor of the island, also discontinued the parochial allowances for maintaining worship in the Episcopalian places of worship. These amounted to about £10,000 a year; and, in the impoverished condition of the island, it was perfectly monstrous to make the washing of clerical surplices and payment of beadies a charge upon the parish rates. The salaries of the Episcopalian clergy continue, however, to be paid, and the churches and rectories are kept in repair out of the general taxation of the island; and these constitute an annual charge on the revenue of about £28,000. This is imposed by an Act passed by the Colonial Legislature in 1856, to remain in force for fourteen years. It rests with Sir J. P. Grant and the Colonial Office to say whether it shall be renewed. Numerous memorials have been presented to the Governor against its renewal, and petitions have also been sent over to this country for presentation to Parliament to the same purpose. The matter lies in a nutshell. If the Irish Church is to be disestablished, much more ought the Jamaica Church. The Episcopalian in the island are said to represent only one ninth of its population; certainly of the attendants at public worship three fourths go elsewhere. According to the returns of the Jamaica bluebook for 1865, the Nonconformists had provided 261 chapels or churches; the Church of England, 87; and according to the returns of 1866, the Nonconformist places of worship will contain 115,550; those of the State-supported Church contain only 68,824, while 25,400 must be added in correction of the number returned under the denomination "Baptist," making a total of 133,550, compared with 68,824. The Church of England, therefore, with all the resources of the public Treasury at command, has not accomplished, in this respect, one third of what has been effected by voluntarism. There is ground for believing that Sir J. P. Grant is convinced of the necessity of applying the disestablishment policy to Jamaica. As the Act making provision for the payment of the clergy was for a definite period, there would be no sort of obligation to compensate the present holders of the livings; but we observe that the Baptist ministers, in their memorial to the Governor, ask that the life-interests of the clergy may be respected.—*English Independent.*

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.—The Army estimates, published on Monday morning show that, with a comparatively small reduction in the numerical strength of the service, Mr. Cardwell has effected an actual net reduction amounting to £1,089,000. This result is due to a diminution of somewhat more than 10 per cent in the net cost of the effective services, which for the ensuing year is not to exceed £10,834,000. The decrease is spread pretty equally over all the votes, except those for the reserve forces, which exhibit a slight increase. In 1868-9 her Majesty's British forces consisted of 136,650 men. The estimated total for 1869-70 is 125,529; so that it is intended to reduce the Army by no less than 11,121 soldiers. Of this reduction by far the larger proportion will fall on infantry regiments; but other branches of the service, and especially the Royal Horse Artillery, will have to contribute their share. The defensive power of the country will not, however, be diminished in a like degree; on the contrary, it may be assumed that, by the recall of troops from Canada and other colonies, as well as by an augmentation of the Army Reserve forces, that power will be materially enhanced. Though no provision is made for calling out the Irish militia, an increased number of the English and Scotch militia will be trained; and, without any addition to the capitation allowance, the volunteer corps will earn nearly £29,000 more than in the preceding year by a large and bona fide increase of "efficients." The cadres of the line regiments have been carefully preserved, except that each battalion recalled from the colonies will lose two companies; but the strength of each battalion serving at home will be reduced from 600 to 560 rank and file; and recruiting will be stopped, or the standard raised, for the requisite period. The infantry of the Line will lose in all 150 officers and 294 non-commissioned officers, but the adoption of the squadron organisation will render it possible to dispense with the services of some eighty cornets in the cavalry. Corresponding reductions are proposed in the colonial and home staff; and the effect of economising men is, of course, apparent, in the votes for commissariat, clothing, and barracks. The total strength of the British Army will be constituted as follows:—Land forces, including depôts of regiments serving in India, 127,336—last year, 138,691; British troops in India, 63,707—last year, 64,466; native Indian army, to be maintained beyond the limits of the Indian empire, 1760—last year, 889; horses, exclusive of officers' horses, 11,701—last year, 13,001. A document accompanying these Estimates explains the difference between the votes of last year and the sums required for the service of the year to come.

FUNERAL OBSEQUIES FOR FUAD PACHA, AT NICE.

THE death of Fuad Pacha, at Nice, though not an unexpected event, was one which served to produce unwonted excitement amidst the European colony which takes up its winter quarters in that resort for invalids. It is not that death itself is there so rare an occurrence, for those who seek that mild air and genial climate are often bound on another journey for which the land of orange groves and balmy winds is but a resting-place by the way. It was so with the energetic man who, too late, sought in the rest of that quiet and beautiful spot the means of prolonging the battle of life. Late last year Fuad Pacha arrived there, and there was at that time very little hope of his recovery, though his clear intellect and that brightness and quickness of manner, which seems to have been his characteristic, remained unimpaired. Fuad Pacha may be said to have been distinguished beyond many of his countrymen from his assimilation to our own ideas of mental culture, and it was this peculiarity which gained for him the reputation of being the representative of the Young Turkey party. That there was ample reason for this distinction may be proved by the practical manner in which he brought his sentiments into notice in the administration of affairs and the adaptation of liberal and progressive theories to the needs of his country. His race in this world was run, however; and when he learned that he could not hope to return and resume his high place, or continue the work which he had hoped to achieve, he bowed, not in deep grief and disappointment, but in cheerful acquiescence, and continued to take such an interest in public affairs as might be gratified by reading the newspapers of the day.

There are few men who had received more of what we call honours than Fuad Pacha—honours meaning stars, orders, and insignia, but meaning also recognition of much worthy work. He had the grand cross of the Legion of Honour of France, the Medjidie of the first class and the order of personal merit of his own country, the Iron Crown of Leopold, the order of the Saviour, of the Prussian Red Eagle, of the Russian St. Anne and St. Stanislaus, of the Italian Saints Maurice and Lazare. One can hardly imagine on what consistent principle some of these orders can have been presented or accepted with any meaning attached to them in reference to their names or the associations which seem to belong to them; but their significance was that of recognition for high service; and the emblems, crosses, medals, ribbons, and stars were borne upon three crimson cushions in the funeral procession which afterwards left that darkened chamber in the Villa Avigdor, on the Promenade des Anglais, to the port where the ship would be at anchor to carry the corpse to Constantinople.

It became the duty of the politest nation on earth to arrange the deportation of the mortal remains of the great Turkish politician from Nice to his own country, and all the arrangements were completed, when an unexpected occurrence at once delayed the solemn ceremony and disappointed the people of Nice of a spectacle which had to be deferred under circumstances leaving an enormous opportunity for guessing and conjecture. At ten in the morning a procession, with full military and municipal honours, was to have started on its way to the little port along the sea-shore; and everyone at Nice was looking forward to the event, for there are comparatively few public incidents in that quiet colony, and people may be excused for becoming excited even in anticipation of a funeral. The night before the intended ceremony was as clear, and soft, and bright as the weather usually is; but far away upon the sea, where the *Latouche-Tréville* was on its way to the port that it might be ready to receive the corpse of the dead statesman, a frightful accident was impending. Off the islands of Hyères that vessel came into collision with the Prince Pierre Bonaparte, a passenger-steamer, from Bastia, in Corsica, to Marseilles. At least fourteen of those on board the steam-vessel were, it is said, swept away by the rush of water, and the vessel itself was disabled, while the Government despatch-boat was forced to put back to Toulon. This dreadful calamity, which caused the deaths of so many poor creatures, also delayed the carrying out of the official programme for the obsequies of the Turkish statesman, whose corpse, lying still in that dim chamber at the Villa Avigdor, was partially forgotten, or regarded as a comparatively insignificant adjunct of the deferred spectacle, in the more exciting intelligence that reached Nice that morning. There was only a day's delay; but in those few hours the sky had become overcast, the weather was grey and gloomy, when the *Renard*, which had been dispatched to take the place of the *Latouche-Tréville*, arrived in the harbour of Villafranca. The ceremony could no longer be delayed, however—if ceremony it could be called, for no solemn observances were performed in the house of death. The embalmers had done their work, and the remains were deposited in a double coffin, which was carried to the harbour, on its way to the country where it would be received with proper funeral rites. Rustem Bey, the Turkish Ambassador to Florence and intimate friend of the dead Pacha, occupied the position of chief mourner; and the coffin, borne on a funeral car of state, beneath a plain catafalque, with only a wreath or two laid upon the black velvet, was accompanied by the municipal authorities, the mounted gendarmes, the sappers, the firemen, and the 28th Regiment of the Line, with their band playing a funeral march. On leaving the Villa Avigdor, where the crowd was most dense, the procession took its way by the road near the sea, and arrived at the port; but the vessel had been unable to enter, and lay to in the harbour, so that a small fleet of row-boats was required to embark the coffin, with the guard of honour and the friends and countrymen of the deceased statesman. The usual solemn salutes were given as the coffin was borne on to the deck of the ship, and then the municipal authorities returned to Nice. Our Engraving represents the scene at the time of the embarkation.

POOR RATES AND PAUPERISM.—The comparative statement of pauperism in the eleven divisions of England and Wales for the month of November, 1867 and 1868, lately issued, shows that, with two exceptions, there was a considerable increase in every division of the number of paupers receiving relief during each week of 1868 as compared with 1867. The Poor-Law Board have also issued a valuable addition to our statistics of metropolitan pauperism. It consists of a return showing the area, population, average pauperism, rateable value, expenditure, and rate in the pound for the relief of the poor of the several metropolitan unions and parishes under separate boards of guardians for the year ended Lady Day, 1868. Appended to the return is a map showing the several metropolitan unions and parishes under separate boards of guardians as existing at the present time; and also the several school districts and sick asylum districts, formed by orders of the Poor-Law Board. The rate in the pound for poor relief paid by the taxpayers of Paddington and the city of London was 7d., whilst Whitechapel paid 3s. 4d. in the pound; St. George's-in-the-East, 3s. 5d.; Stepney, 3s. 7d.; and Bethnal-green, 3s. 11d. in the pound. The average rate in the pound paid by thirty-eight metropolitan parishes was 1s. 6d.

NEW RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS.—The report of the Board of Trade on the railway and tramway bills of the present Session shows that there are twenty-seven railway bills and six tramway bills promoted by new companies. The length of the new lines of railway is to be 175 miles, and the total amount of the proposed capital is £14,060,225. The tramways proposed are to be fifty miles in length, with a capital of £811,600. There are twenty-eight railway bills proposed by existing companies, which ask for additional powers, and thirty-one for new works and additional powers. The total length of the proposed new lines will be 165 miles, and the proposed additional capital £2,401,259. The total length of the new lines is, therefore, 280 miles, and fifty miles of tramways for streets and roads. The total share and loan capital as proposed to be raised by the railway bills of new and existing companies amounts to £16,461,484, and by the tramway bills to £811,600. Of the capital of £14,060,225 proposed to be raised by the twenty-seven railway bills of new companies, £8,653,000 is proposed by six bills for additional railways in the metropolis of an aggregate length of fourteen miles; £1,750,000 is proposed by the bill for a new railway to Brighton, forty-seven miles in length; £2,710,600 is proposed by four bills for an aggregate length of ten miles of railway; and £946,625 is proposed by sixteen bills for 104 miles of railway. Several of these bills, it is understood, are not to be proceeded with. Fifteen bills propose the abandonment of lines or portions of lines authorised by the Acts of previous Sessions, the aggregate length of which amounts to upwards of 272 miles. Twenty-four bills apply for the extension of the time prescribed for the completion of railways authorised by the Acts of previous Sessions.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

It is now officially announced that an alliance has been formed between the once rival opera-managers; that the one theatre to be opened by them this season for operatic performances will be Covent Garden; and that Mdle. Titiens, Madame Adelina Patti, Mdle. Christine Nilsson, and Mdle. Pauline Lucca, will be included in the company. The company, then, will be strong in prima donnas, if in nothing else. The conductor is to be Signor Arditi, vice Mr. Costa, who resigns, or declines re-engagement on the terms offered, as he prefers to put it.

The best of the thousand-and-one letters that have been published on the subject of musical pitch appeared in last week's *Musical World*. The French diapason, as fixed by a committee of which Rossini, Meyerbeer, and Auber were members, has been adopted, or is gradually being adopted, all over Europe. It will be very inconvenient, then, for foreign singers visiting this country to find a diapason recognised among us which is considerably higher (half a tone, more or less) than the one to which they are accustomed. That is all, or nearly all, that need be said about the matter. There is no abstract reason why one pitch rather than another should be maintained; only when all the composers, and, as a necessary consequence, the singers, of the Continent have arranged to conform to one particular pitch, pronounced suitable by the best possible judges on the subject, it is absurd that England should hesitate to adopt it. The change will involve the purchase of a good many new brass instruments; and that is really all that can be fairly urged against it. The writer, however, in the *Musical World* confines himself to the arguments for and against the proposed alteration that have been derived from the difficulty singers newly arrived in England are said to experience in suiting their voices to our orchestras; and he is justly of opinion that these arguments are not worth listening to. Mr. Simon Halé, the author of the letter in question, after making a mistake about a tenor named Lefranc, who failed last season at the Royal Italian Opera (and who, if our diapason had been, not half a note, but two notes lower, would still have been unable to come up to it), points out that no one since Malibran has sung the finale of the "Sonnambula," and no one since Rubini the tenor music of the "Sonnambula," "Roberto Devereux," "I Puritani," &c., in the original keys; and, on the other hand, that singers like Madame Gassier and Madame Bosio, the pitch notwithstanding, would frequently transpose their airs into higher keys; that Madame Grisi almost invariably sang the cabaletta in "Casta Diva," the great airs of Donna Anna, &c., lower than they are written; that Rubini invariably sang "Adelaide" in C instead of B flat; that Madame Caradori Allan wished Mendelssohn to transpose the air, "Hear ye, Israel," from B to A, which, inasmuch as it would have entirely destroyed the connection of this piece with the chorus into which it merges ("Be not afraid"), he warmly declined; and, not to mention other instances, that Mr. Sims Reeves himself has on more than one occasion, pitch notwithstanding, sung Beethoven's "Liederkreis" at the Monday Popular Concerts in E, instead of E flat. In truth, continues Mr. Halé, the transpositions of singers—and really Bellini, Donizetti, &c., would have been surprised, if not indignant, at the various transpositions, high or low, as it may happen, which have for years been made, un-made, and re-made in their operas—form no argument, depending, as they do, in the majority of cases, upon circumstances and conditions so capricious that to apply them theoretically is impossible. The great upholder of the British or "abnormal" pitch (assuming the French pitch to be entitled to the epithet of "normal") was Mr. Costa. If Signor Arditi succeeds permanently to Mr. Costa's post he will, perhaps, make some attempt to bring about an instrumental reform, which—whatever bad arguments may have been employed in favour of it—is really much needed.

The first performance of "Die Meistersinger," postponed on account of the refusal, or, according to some, inability from illness, of Herr Brandes to sing the part of Walter von Stolzing, took place, contrary to general expectation, on the 5th instant, the management of the Royal Opera House, Munich, having granted Herr Nacker leave of absence, which they had at first denied him. The Grand Duke, Grand Duchesses, and all their Court were present. The *mise en scene* was admirable, and the opera went very smoothly, as was only natural, seeing that it had seventy-two rehearsals, a most unusual number, at any rate in a German town. But the success was certainly not equal to that achieved by Herr R. Wagner's last work in Munich, "Dresden and Dessau." The first act left the audience perfectly cold; the edgeling and fis-cuffs in the second excited applause; but, had it not been for the third act, which pleased very much, the curtain would have descended on a failure. If the opera is to be retained in the bill it will have to be very much curtailed.

The humourists of the Paris press are beginning to repent and confess their sins in respect to Rimini. Ferdinand Hiller had exposed them, Herr Wagner had denounced them; but all to no purpose. They had not read the "Conversation with Rossini;" and whatever Herr Wagner writes, whether on ruled or unruled paper, is looked upon by the contributors to the French *petits journaux* as only so much material for mirth. It has occurred, however, to one of the writers in the *Figaro* that, just when so many bad and inappropriate jokes were being put into Rossini's mouth, it is quite possible that the great composer may have been seriously engaged upon his recently-produced mass; "for," says M. Albert Wolf, "the jokes were fictitious. I invented some of them myself."

IRISH RAILWAYS.—In reply to the resolutions passed at a meeting at Limerick, in favour of a reform in the management of Irish railways, Earl Spencer writes:—"The resolutions passed at Limerick shall receive careful consideration. I am fully alive to the importance of the subject to which they refer. The opinion of so influential a meeting connected with Limerick will carry weight with the Government." Mr. Gladstone replies that "the purchase of the Irish railways by the State (which Mr. Gladstone is much pleased to observe is engrossing the attention of a large and influential section of the people of Ireland) will receive the most careful consideration from her Majesty's Ministers."

THE MARRIAGE OF PRIESTS.—The Court of Appeal of Naples has reversed the decision of the Civil Tribunal of Salerno, by which it was decided that a priest was always a priest, and was bound by the obligations he contracted as such. The judgment of the Superior Court directs that the marriage of the priest Signor Luigi Triglia with Signora Marianna Montefusco (on whose case the question arose) shall be proceeded with according to law. The Appeal Courts of Genoa, Palermo, and Trani had already decided that such marriages were valid after the ceremony was performed, but by the judgment of the Neapolitan Appeal Court the legality of the principle is established. In the present instance, also, the husband has neither abjured his religion nor abandoned his profession as a priest.

THE QUEEN'S COLLEGES IN IRELAND.—The reports of the presidents of the Queen's Colleges at Cork and Belfast have been published this week. The Belfast president reports that the attendance of students during the year 1868 amounted to 390. He says:—"In the former year the number present, and given in my last report, was 387. Since the opening of the college no session has passed over marked by greater diligence and assiduity, and by a more general observance of order and discipline on the part of the students, than the last. The few cases of departure from rule or propriety which came under my notice were generally disposed of by myself, without the necessity of having them referred to the jurisdiction of the council. As attention, good conduct, and zeal always lead to important results, so the improvement and success of the great body of the students have been highly creditable to themselves and gratifying to the professors. In the various testing examinations, whether those conducted within the walls of the college itself, for scholarships, exhibitions, and prizes, or those of the Queen's University for its high distinctions and rewards, many of our students, during the past year, have won positions for themselves which attest their past labours and exertions, whilst affording an encouraging earnest of their future success in life. The reports of the Civil Service Commissioners, and of different Governmental authorities at home and abroad, continue to afford most satisfactory testimony that the students of this college still hold their place amongst those of the other universities of the empire, not only in the arenas of scientific and literary competition, but in the practical work afterwards assigned to them in the various departments of the public service. Testimonies are constantly reaching the college from various quarters, regarding the advancement of former students, which establish the important fact that the instruction imparted within these walls is sound in its quality and extensive in its range."

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1110 " double, at 8s. 9d. " 12s. 6d.
1200 " " " 10s. 9d. " 13s. 6d.
800 " " 12s. 6d. " 16s. 6d.
264 to 270, Edgware-road.

IRISH POPLINS.—D. B. JOHNSTONE
and CO.
900 yards, all Silk and Wool, at 1s. 10d.; worth 2s. 11d.
1200 " " " at 1s. 11d.; " 2s. 3d.
1600 " " " at 2s. 11d.; " 4s. 3d.
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JAPANESE SILKS.—D. B. JOHNSTONE
and CO.
2100 yards, all Silk and Wool, at 1s. 10d.; worth 2s. 11d.
3800 " " " at 2s. 11d.; " 3s. 11d.
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D. B. JOHNSTONE and CO.
A Few FANCY SILKS, at 1s. 11d.; worth 2s. 9d.
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PRINTS.—D. B. JOHNSTONE and CO.
18,000 yards best Swiss Printed Cambrics, at 4d.; worth 6d.
23,000 " " Percales, at 5d.; " 7d.
19,000 " " French Cretonne Cloth, at 4d.; " 5d.
22,000 " " " at 5d.; " 7d.
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CARPETS.—D. B. JOHNSTONE and CO.
500 yards good Tapestry, at 2s. 1d.
1600 " best ditto, at 2s. 4d.; worth 3s. 3d.
2600 " new designs, at 2s. 9d.; " 3s. 6d.
950 " good Brussels, at 2s. 6d.; " 4s. 6d.
1200 " " new designs, at 3s. 11d.; " 5s. 0d.
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BROCATELLES.—D. B. JOHNSTONE and
CO.
1600 yards Brocatelle, at 4s. 11d.; worth 6s. 11d.
1900 " " " at 7s. 9d.; " 10s. 9d.
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CURTAINS.—D. B. JOHNSTONE and CO.
A large Stock of LENO, SCOTCH MUSLIN, LACE, and SWISS
CURTAINS, commencing at 2s. 11d. pair.
A special lot of Scotch Muslin, 3 1/2 yards long, double border,
5s. 11d.; worth 7s. 11d.
Two yards wide, 4 yards long, 9s. 11d.; worth 11s. 9d.
A special lot of Leno, splendid quality, 2 yards wide, 4 yards long,
double border, 13s. 9d.; worth 20s. 9d.
264 to 270, Edgware-road.

QUILTS.—D. B. JOHNSTONE and CO.
A Large Lot at less than manufacturers' price.
2 1/2 yards long, at 7s. 11d.; worth 12s. 6d.
3 " " " at 13s. 11d.; " 17s. 9d.
2 1/2 " extra quality, 12s. 9d.; " 17s. 9d.
3 " " " at 14s. 9d.; " 20s. 6d.
264 to 270, Edgware-road.

DIMITIES.—D. B. JOHNSTONE and CO.
Printed Fast Colours, from 4d. per yard; b at quality, 9d.
and 10d.
Yard-wide Damask Dimitie, best quality, 6d.; worth 8d.
Yard-and-a-Half-wide Damask Dimitie, best quality, 1s. 2d.;
worth 1s. 6d.
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Close on Saturdays at Two o'clock all the year round.

GREAT SALE OF DRESSES and SILKS.
CHAS. AMOTT and COMPANY having purchased, during
the recess, the residue Stocks of several Manufacturers at an
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form a vast and varied collection, exceeding in value £20,000, and
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30in. wide, for £1 18s. 6d.;
actual value, 41.
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(Real Yokohama), 18s. 11d.; worth 1 guinea.
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Patterns post-free.
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IN WASHING SATIN, 21s.
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Fragrant, Magnolia, Patchouly, Geranium, Ever-sweet,
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One Table-spoonful
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To be obtained
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